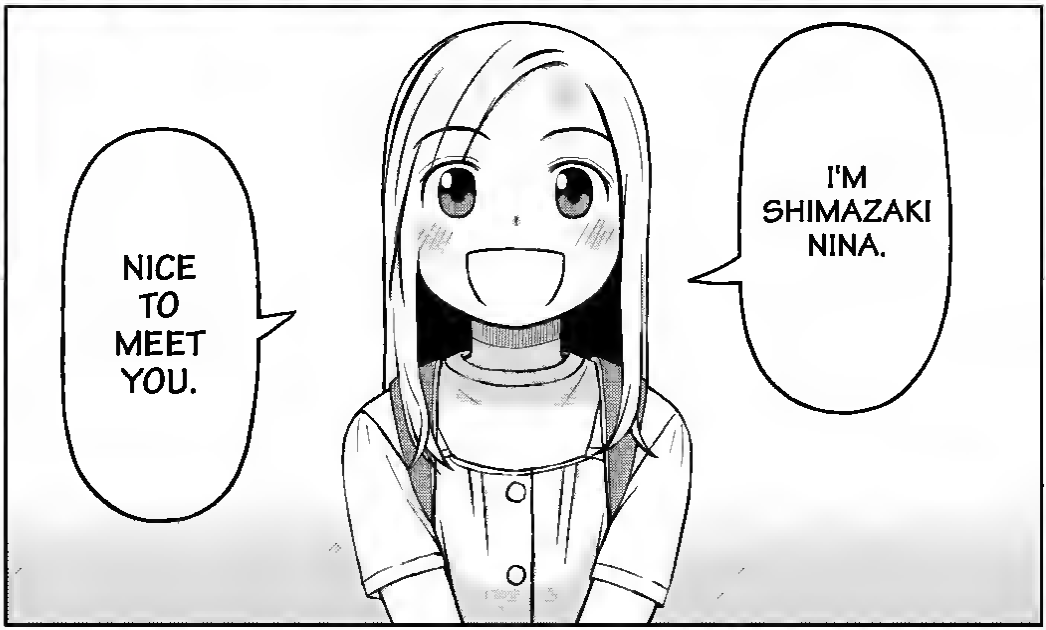
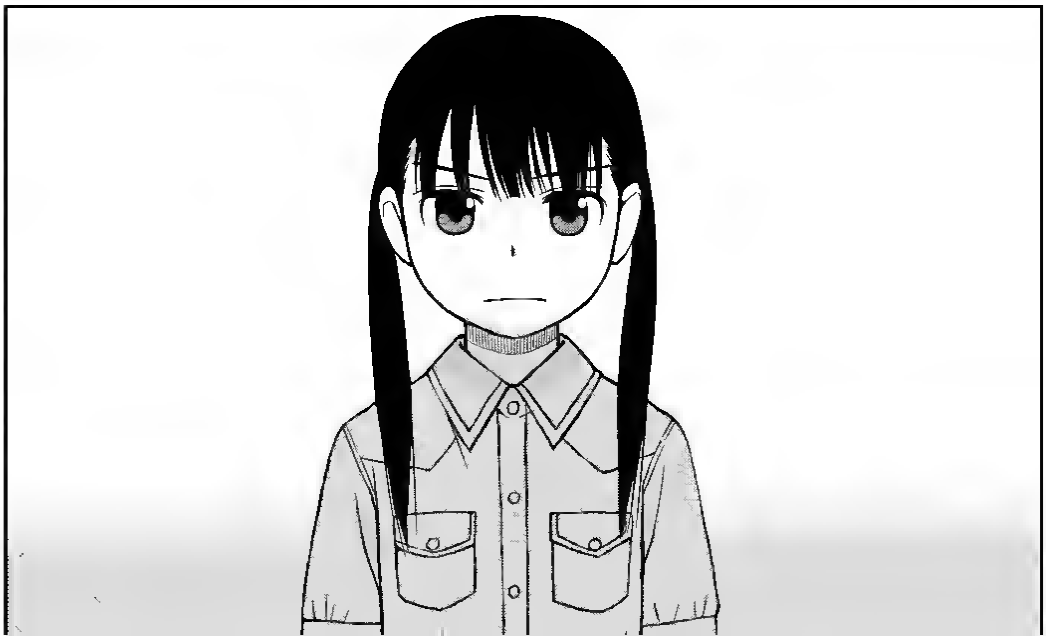
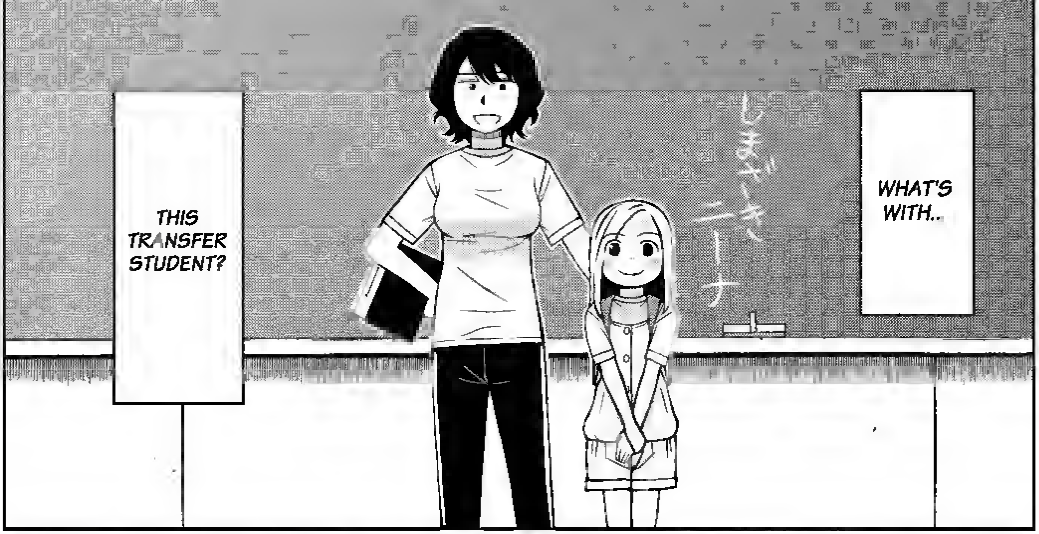
CHAPTER 27

# YOU'RE VERY HELPFUL

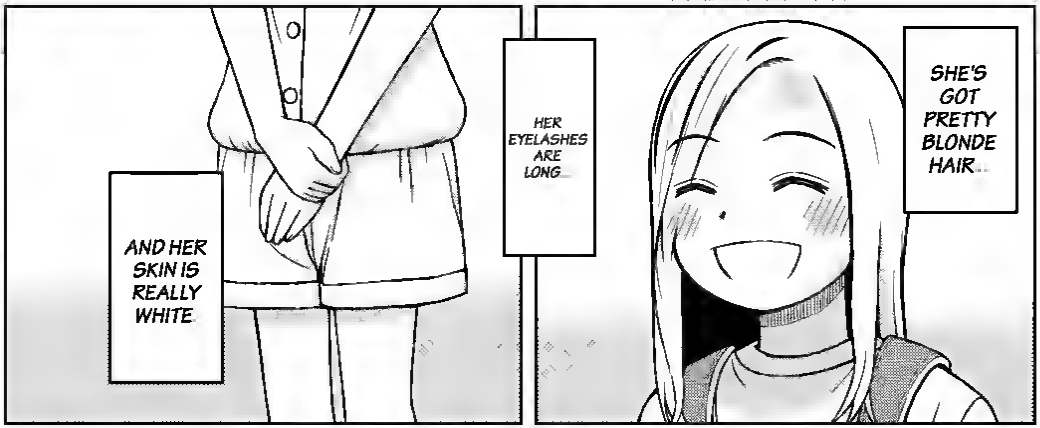
CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW AND RETURNING STUDENTS!

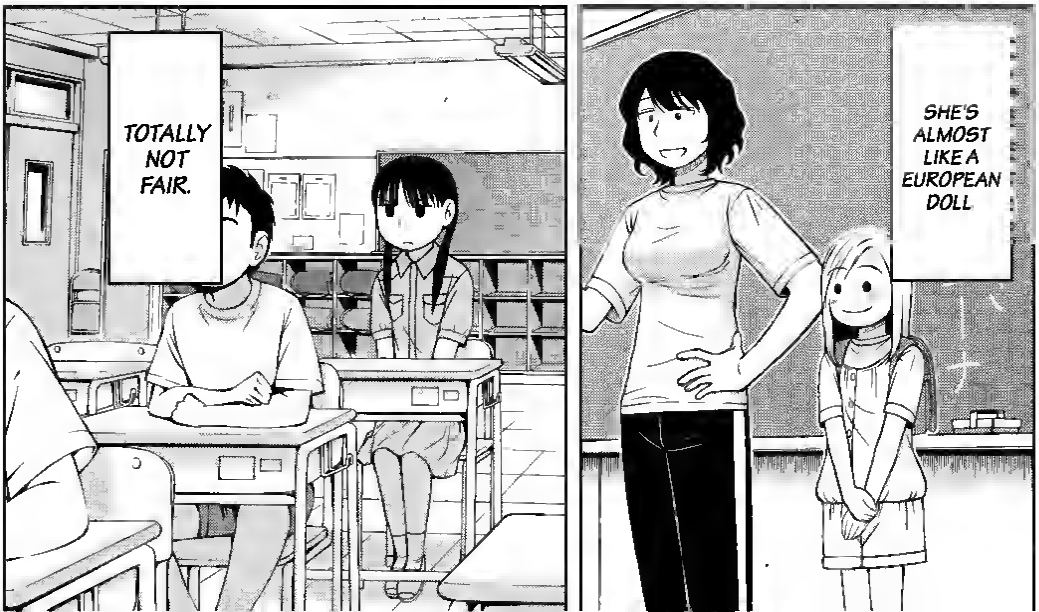

I'M SHIMAZAKI NINA.
NICE TO MEET YOU.

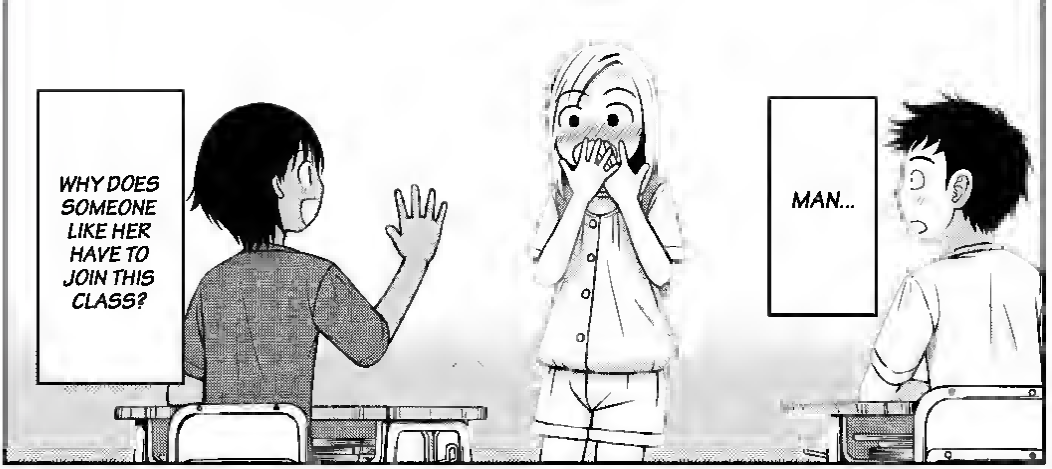


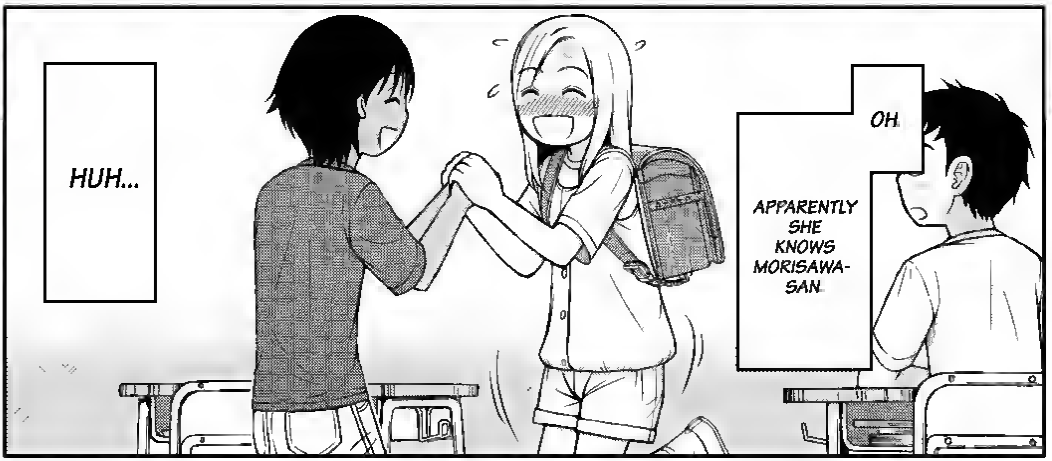


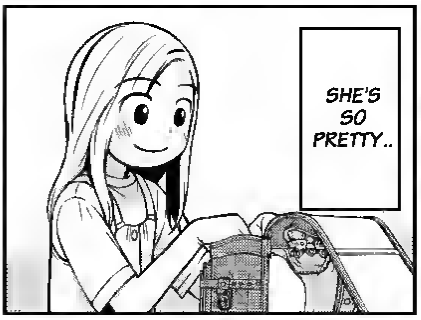

SIGN: SHIMAZAKI NINA




WHY DOES SOMEONE LIKE HER HAVE TO JOIN THIS CLASS?
MAN...

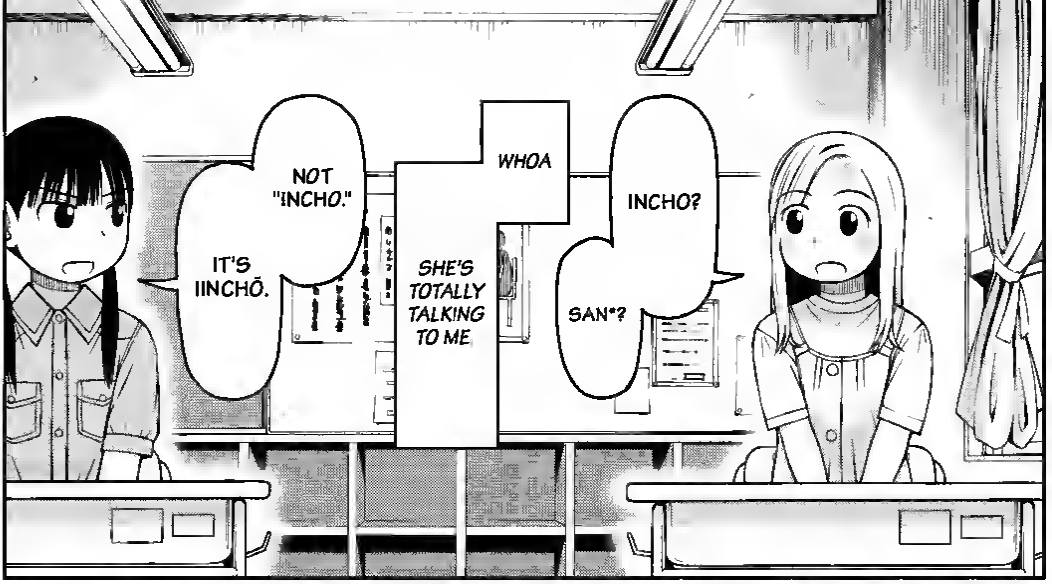

HUH...
OH.
APPARENTLY SHE KNOWS MORISAWA-SAN.


SHE'S SO PRETTY..

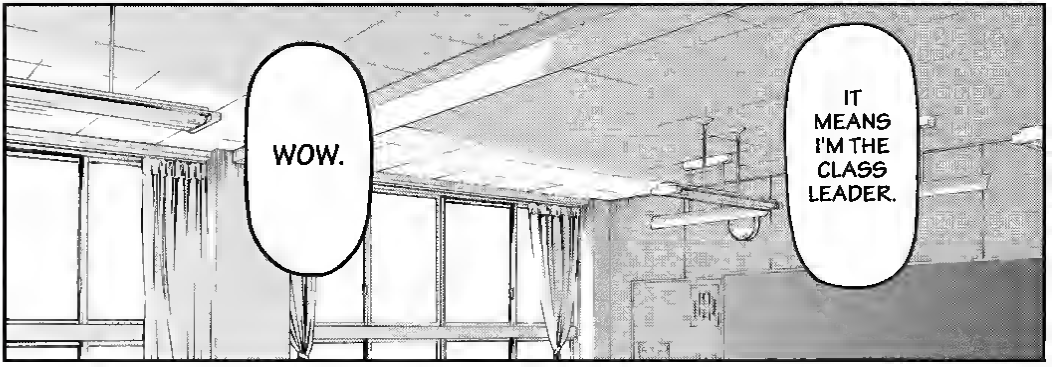
IT REALLY PISSES ME OFF..

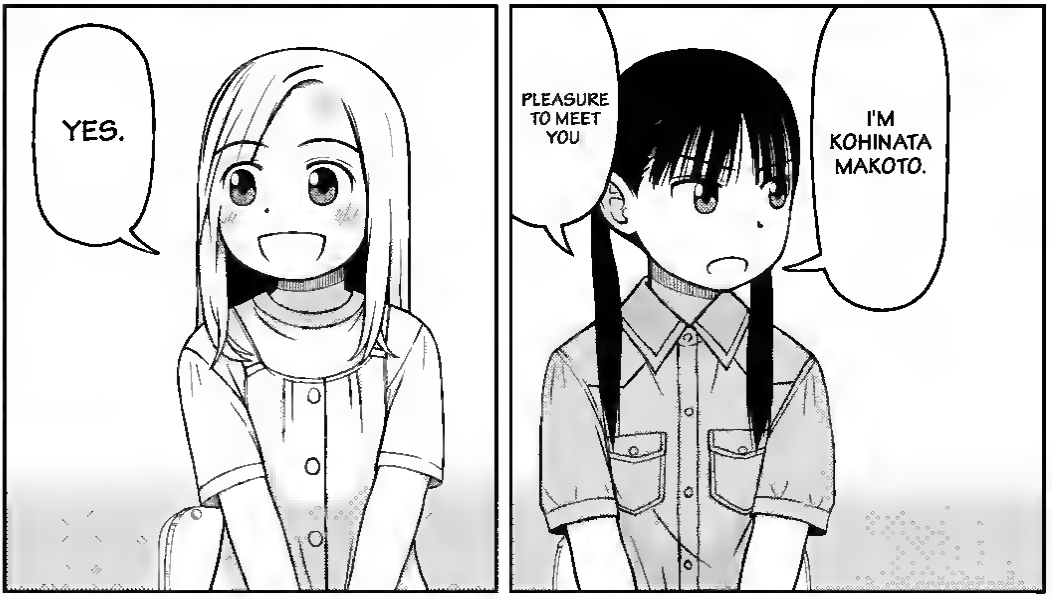
ER, IS SHE REALLY SITTING NEXT TO ME?
SQUEAK

*CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

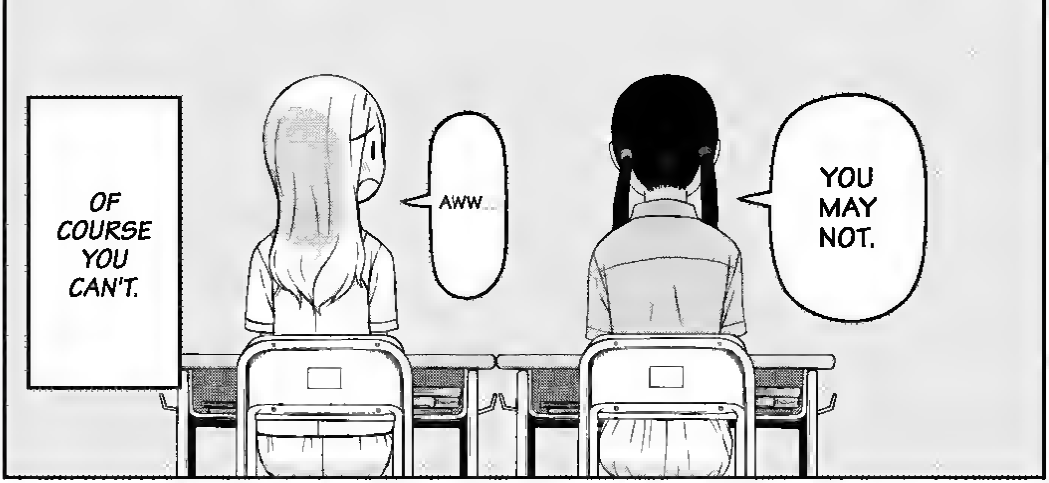


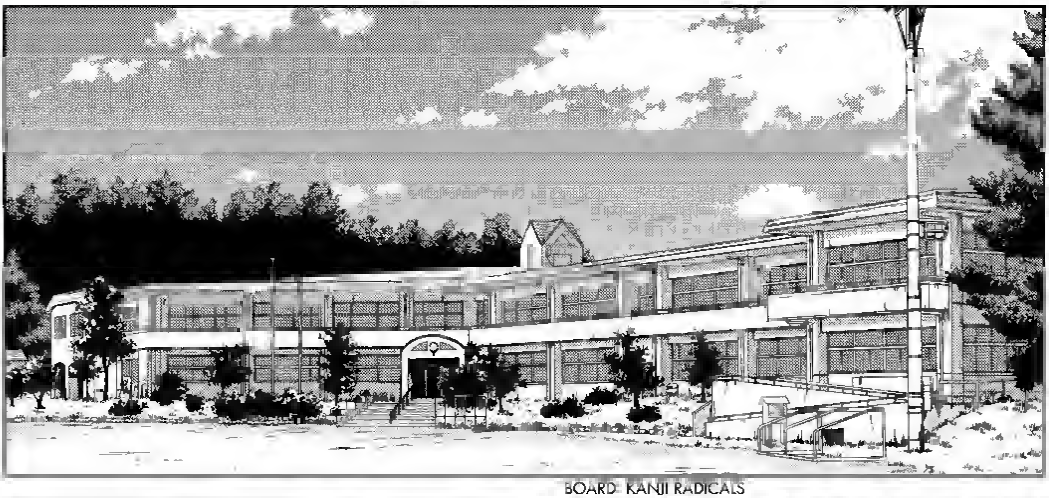

*NINA THINKS THIS IS A NAME NOT A FORM OF ADDRESS



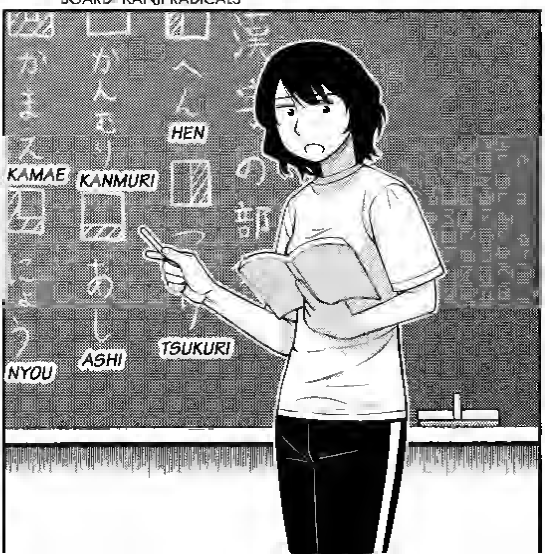



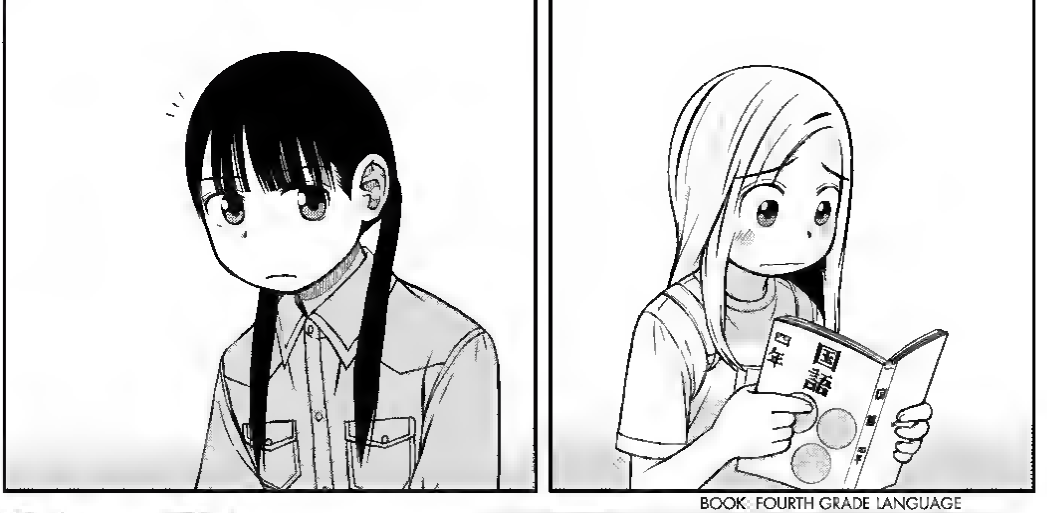
IT'LL BE EASIER FOR ME TO TEACH YOU THINGS IF YOUR DESK IS RIGHT NEXT TO MINE.
OH, OKAY.
SHIMAZAKI-SAN, SCOOT YOUR DESK THIS WAY.
HUH?
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
CAN NINA CALL YOU "MAKOTO-CHAN"?
UM...
KOHI-NATA-SAN.
WHAT?
IF THERE'S SOMETHING DURING CLASS YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND,
DON'T HESITATE TO ASK ME
OKAY



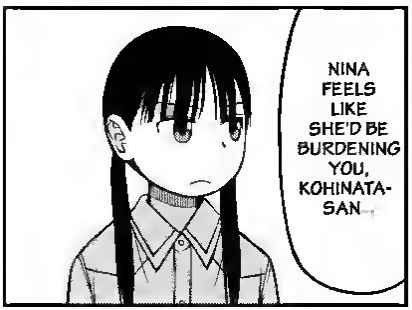



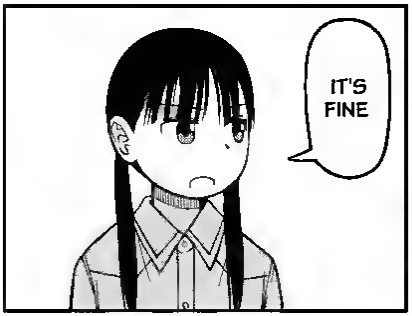
BOARD: KANJI RADICALS

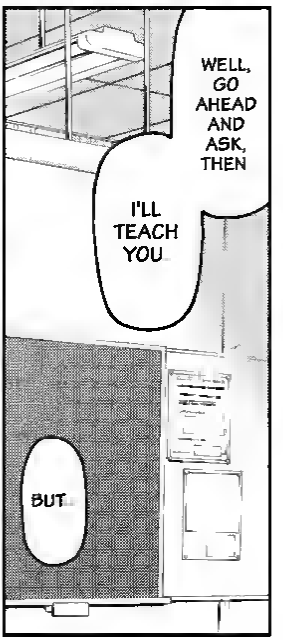




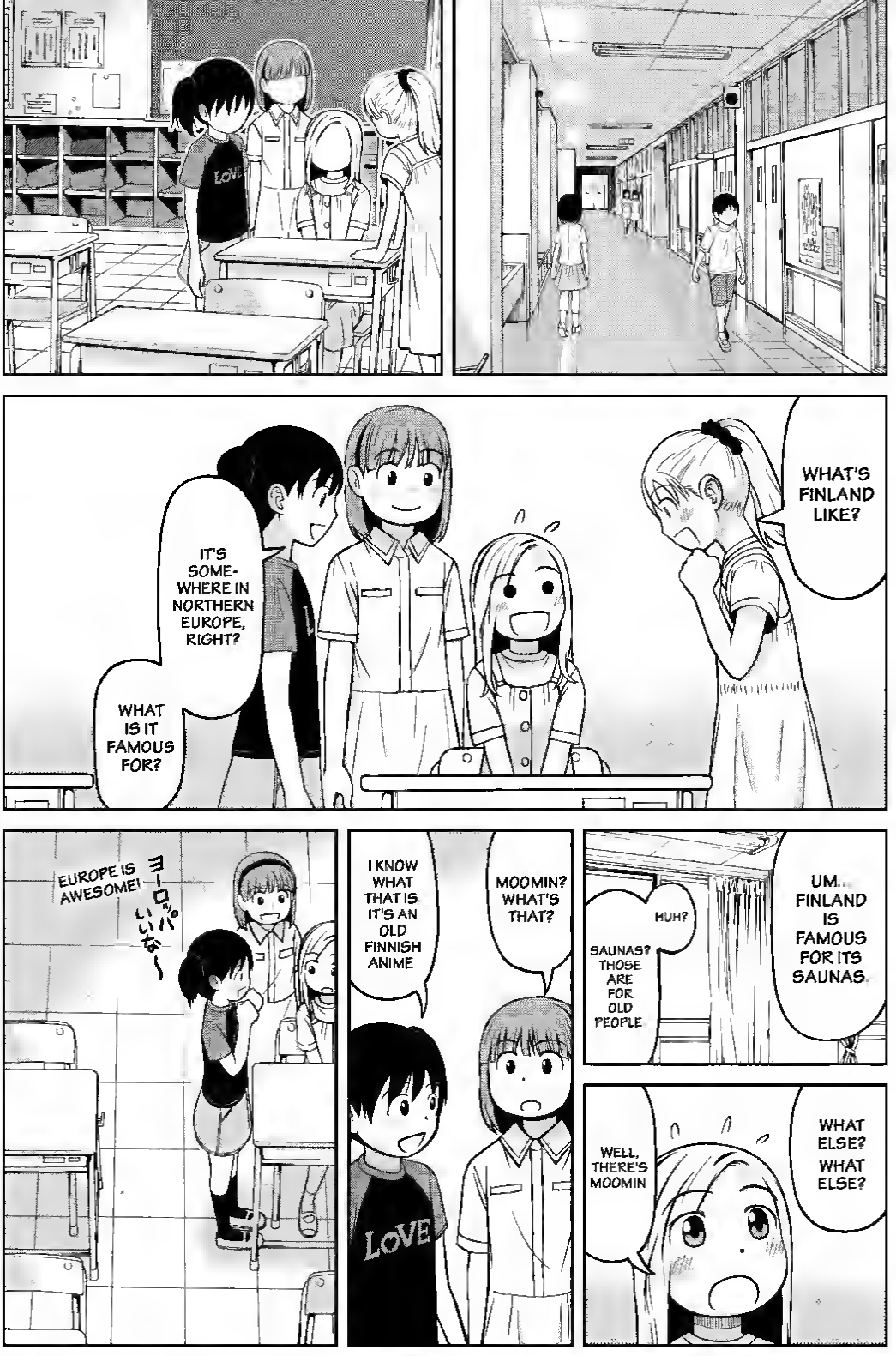

BOOK: FOURTH GRADE LANGUAGE

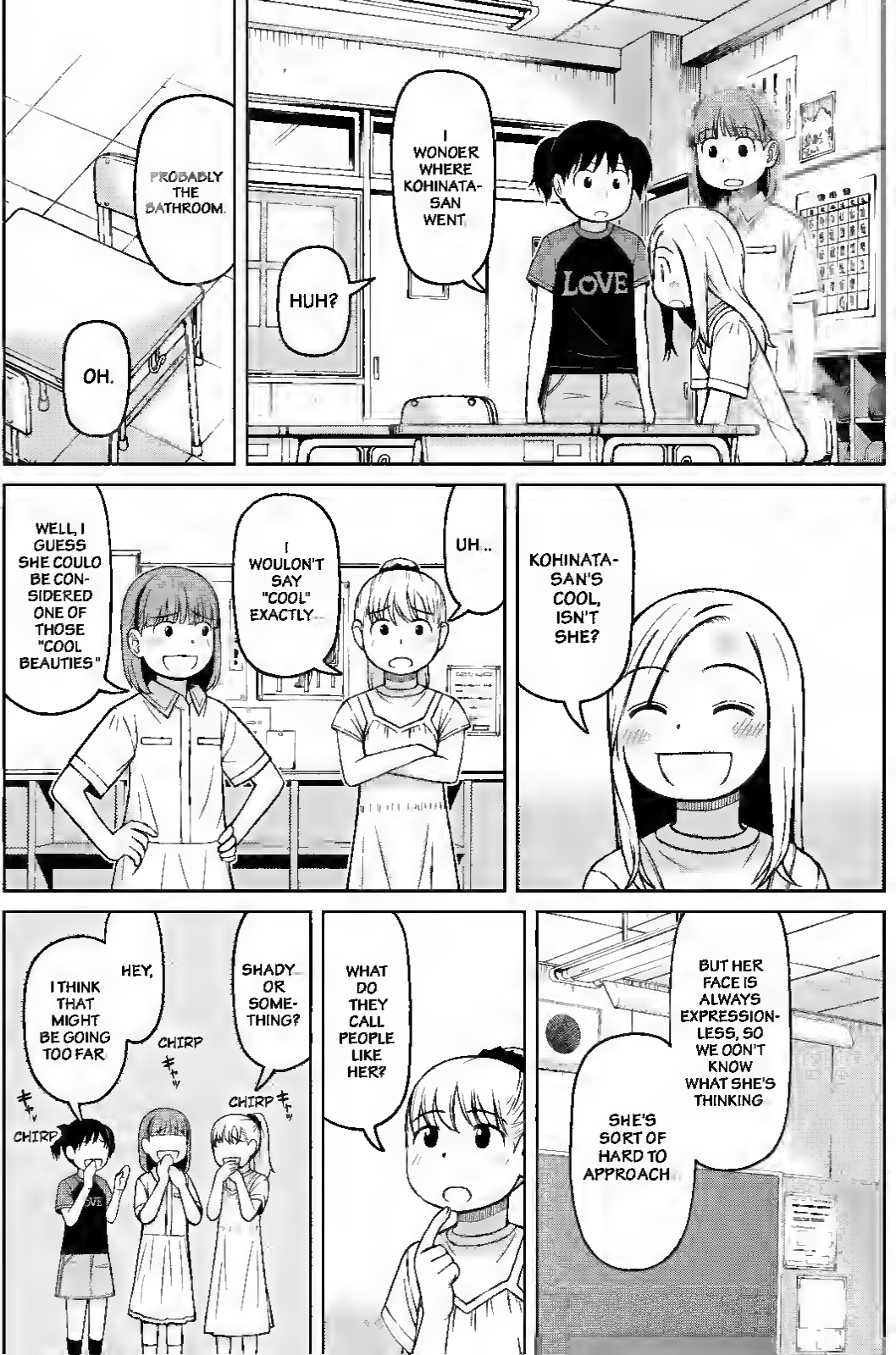


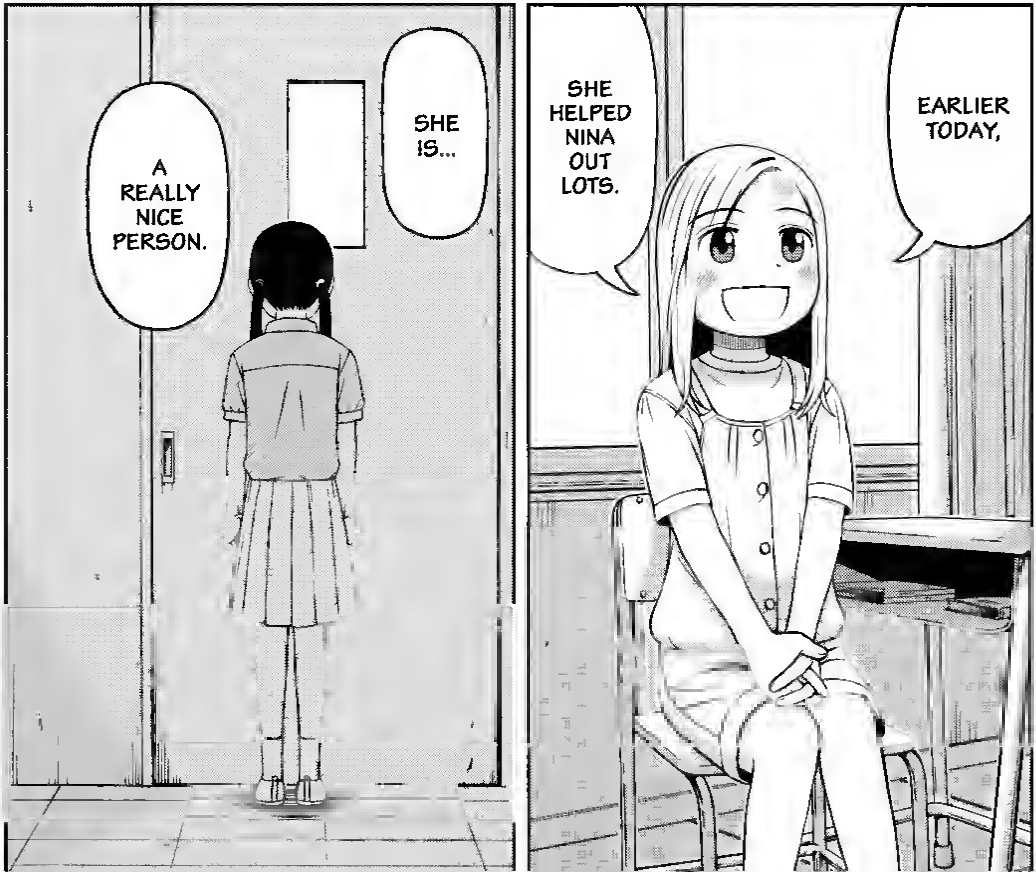


I'M REALLY GOOD AT SCHOOL-WORK!
OKAY
SO DON'T WORRY
THANK YOU, KOHINATA-SAN...

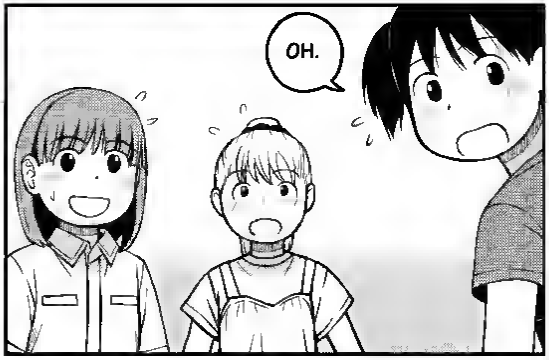

WHAT'S FINLAND LIKE?
IT'S SOMEWHERE IN NORTHERN EUROPE, RIGHT?
WHAT IS IT FAMOUS FOR?
UM... FINLAND IS FAMOUS FOR ITS SAUNAS.
HUH?
SAUNAS? THOSE ARE FOR OLD PEOPLE
WHAT ELSE? WHAT ELSE?
WELL, THERE'S MOOMIN
MOOMIN? WHAT'S THAT?
I KNOW WHAT THAT IS IT'S AN OLD FINNISH ANIME
EUROPE IS AWESOME!
ヨーロッパいいな〜

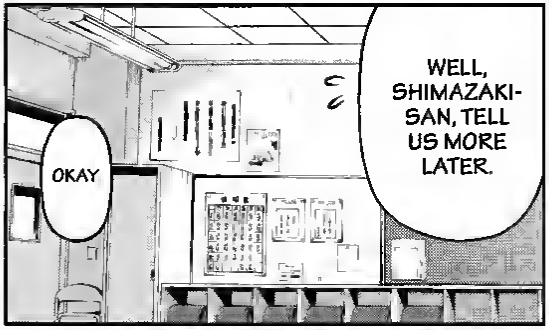

I WONDER WHERE KOHINATA-SAN WENT.
LOVE
HUH?
PROBABLY THE BATHROOM.
OH.
UH..
I WOULDN'T SAY "COOL" EXACTLY...
WELL, I GUESS SHE COULD BE CONSIDERED ONE OF THOSE "COOL BEAUTIES"
KOHINATA-SAN'S COOL, ISN'T SHE?
WHAT DO THEY CALL PEOPLE LIKE HER?
SHADY OR SOMETHING?
HEY, I THINK THAT MIGHT BE GOING TOO FAR.
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
BUT HER FACE IS ALWAYS EXPRESSIONLESS, SO WE DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE'S THINKING
SHE'S SORT OF HARD TO APPROACH

KOHINATA-SAN IS A GOOD PERSON.
THAT'S NOT TRUE


A REALLY NICE PERSON.
SHE IS...
SHE HELPED NINA OUT LOTS.
EARLIER TODAY,

SHE'S TOTALLY COOLER THAN SHUTARO.
SHUTARO? WHO'S THAT?
A CELEBRITY?

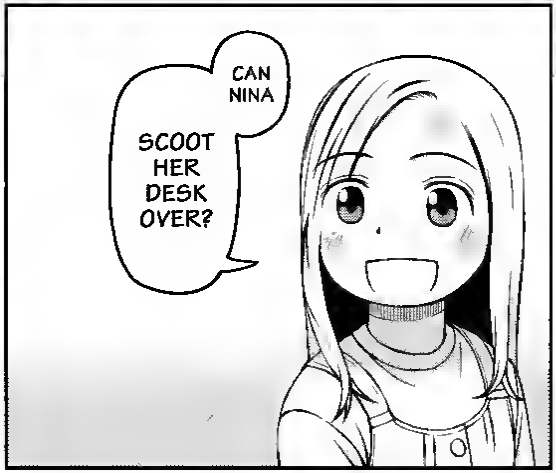

OH.


WELL, SHIMAZAKI-SAN, TELL US MORE LATER.
OKAY

SQUEAK
LOVE

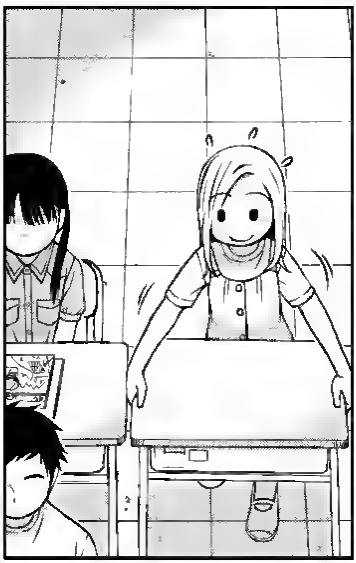
CLATTER

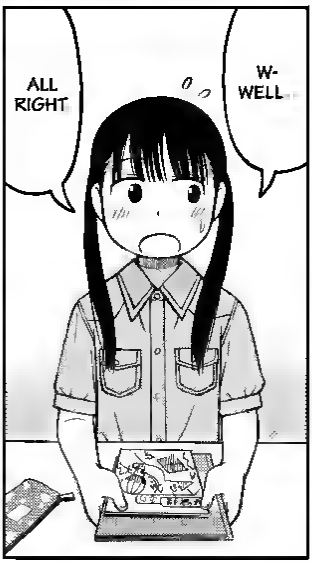
DING
DONG
カーン
コーン
DING
DONG
キーン
コーン

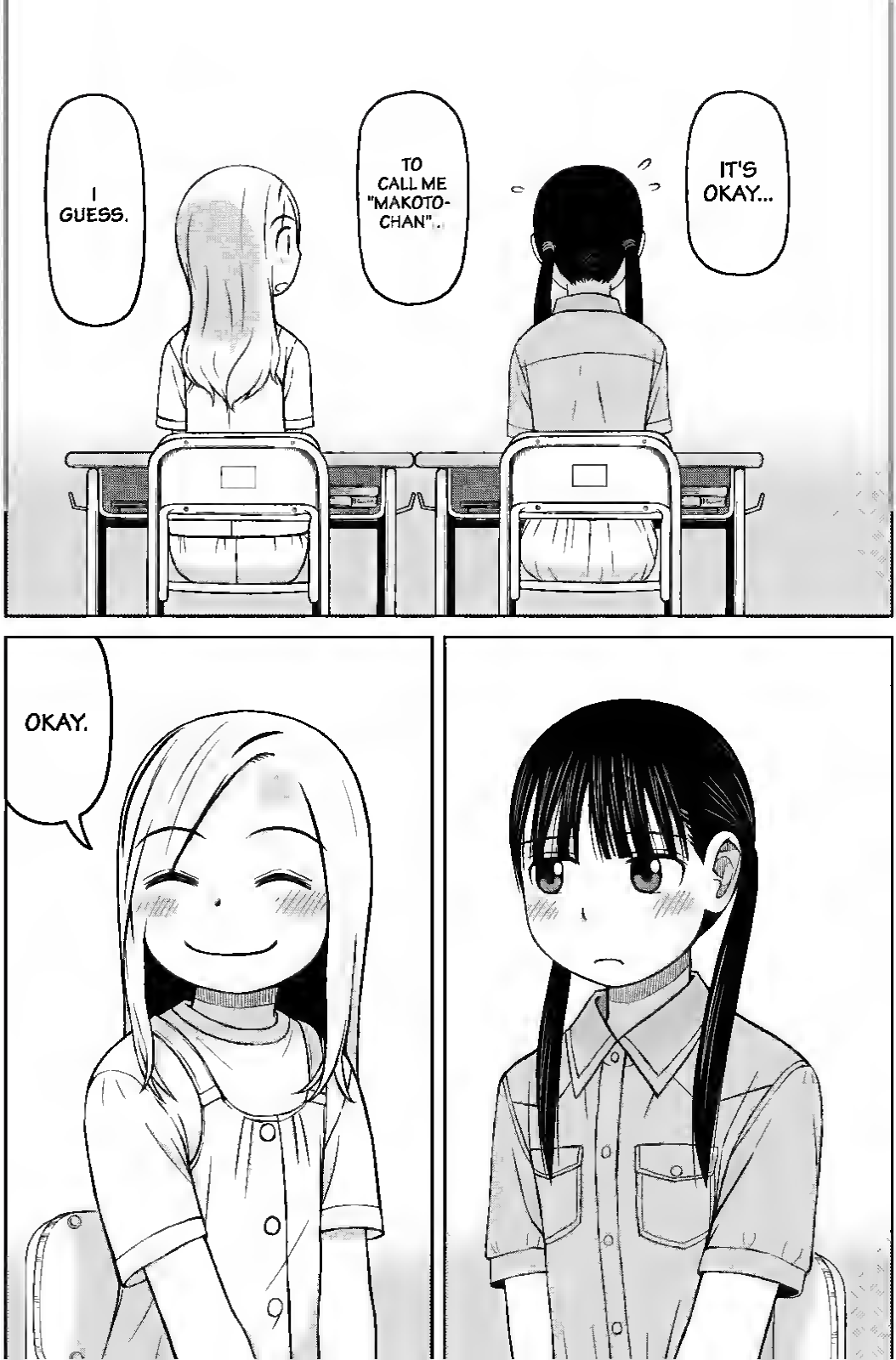

CAN NINA SCOOT HER DESK OVER?

KOHINATA-SAN...
WHAT?

...
BY THE WAY...

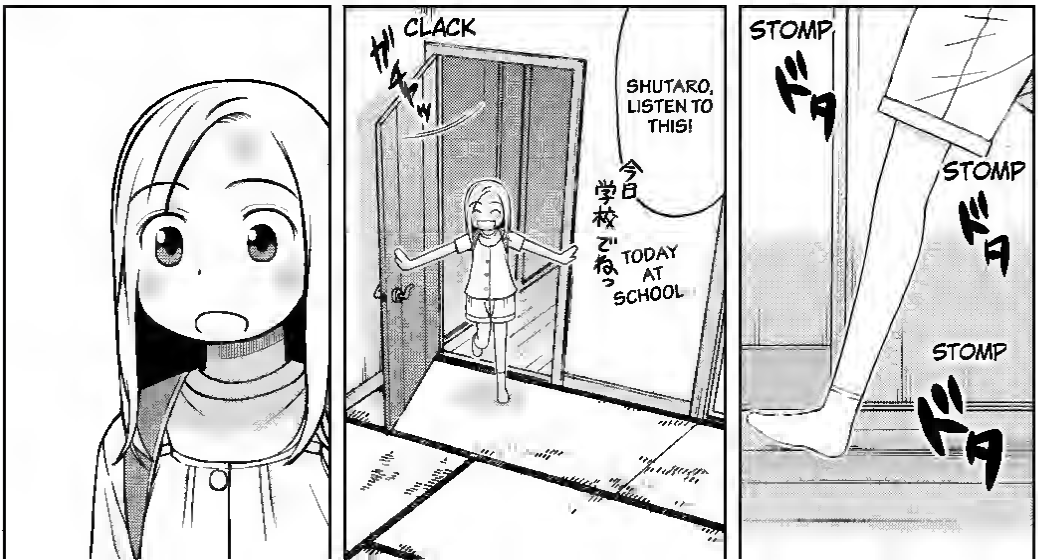


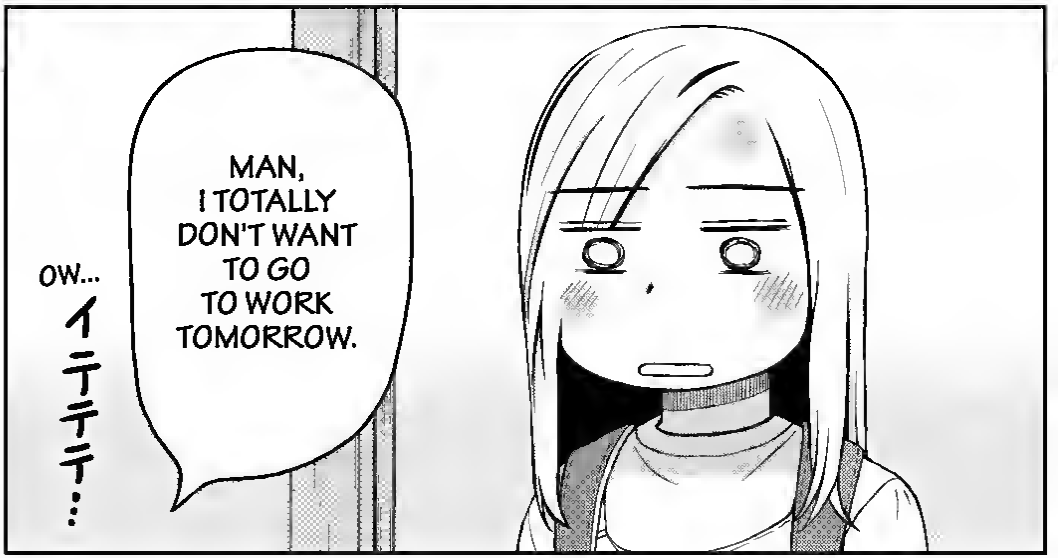

W-WELL...
ALL RIGHT


I GUESS.
TO CALL ME "MAKOTO-CHAN"..
IT'S OKAY...
OKAY.

THEN CALL NINA, "NINA", OKAY?
...
I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.

NINA'S HOME.

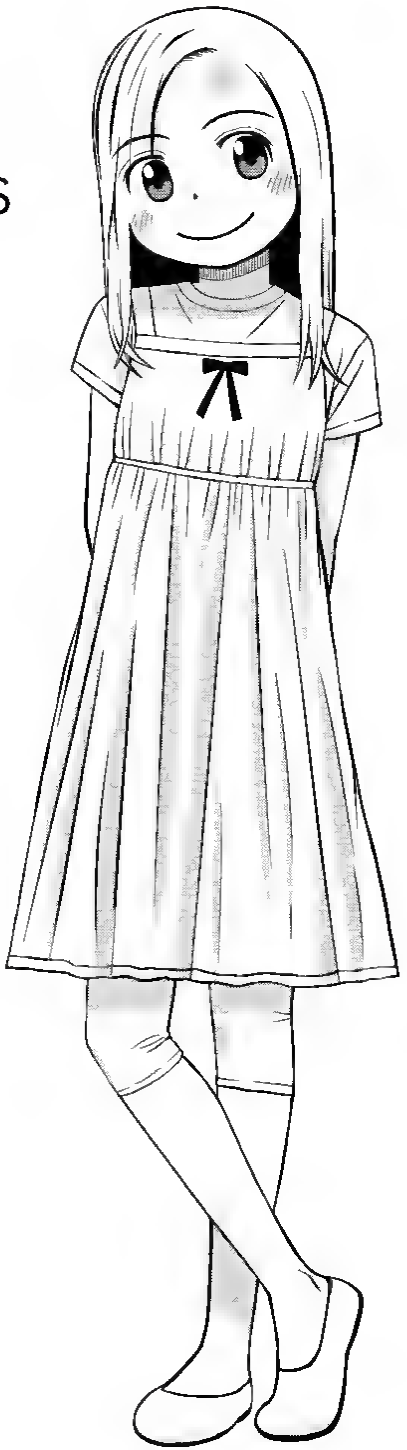

CLACK
SHUTARO, LISTEN TO THIS!
今日学校で
TODAY AT SCHOOL
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP



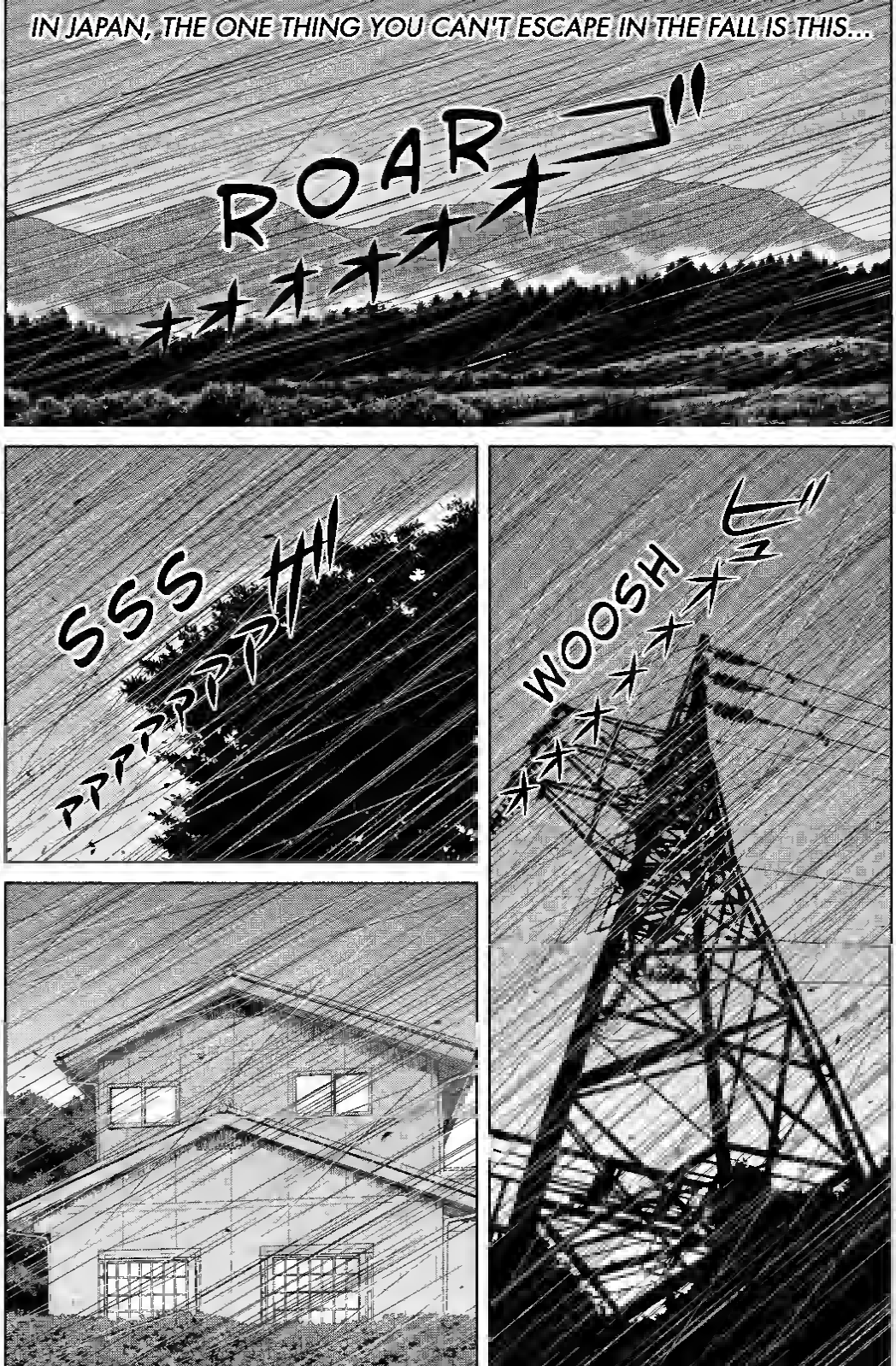
*SHUTARO'S POPULARITY IS CURRENTLY PLUMMETING...*

CHAPTER 28

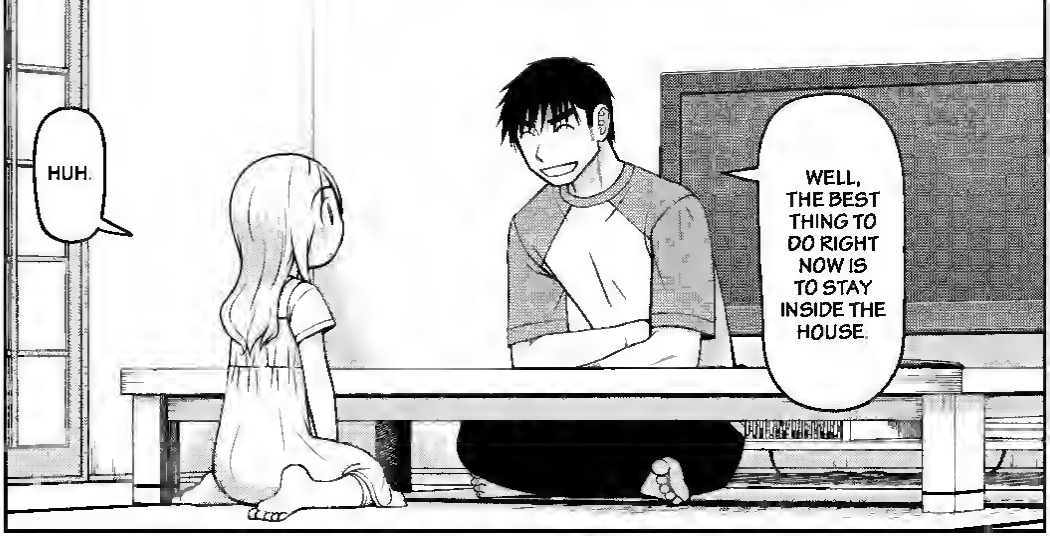
# TYPHOONS AND FAMILY GATHERINGS



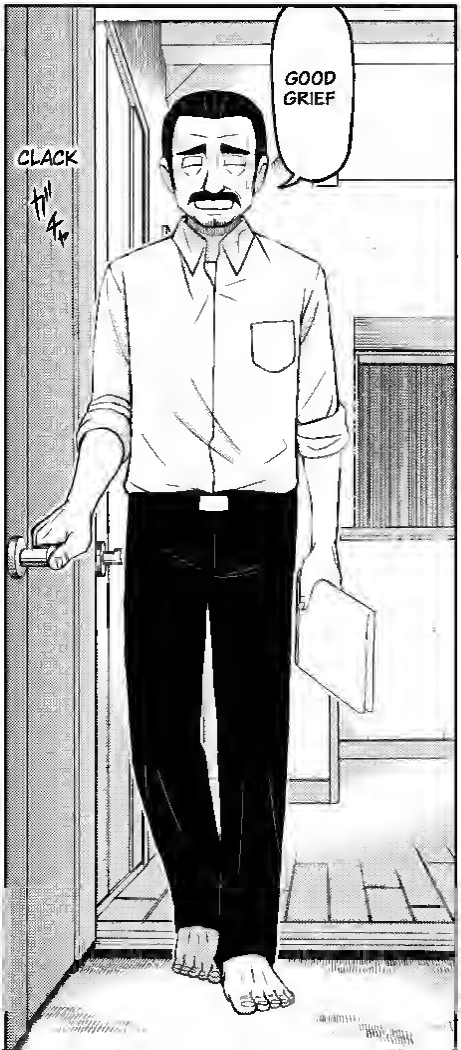
*NOW THAT IT'S FALL, I'M EVEN MORE ENERGETIC!*

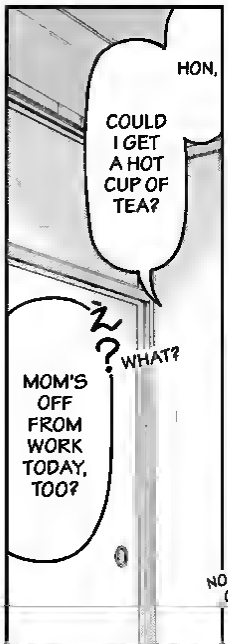

IN JAPAN, THE ONE THING YOU CAN'T ESCAPE IN THE FALL IS THIS...
ROAR
ゴー
SSS
アアアアアア
HH
WOOSH
ヒュー

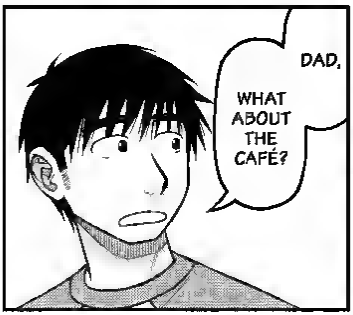
SSS
アアアア


HUH.
WELL, THE BEST THING TO DO RIGHT NOW IS TO STAY INSIDE THE HOUSE.

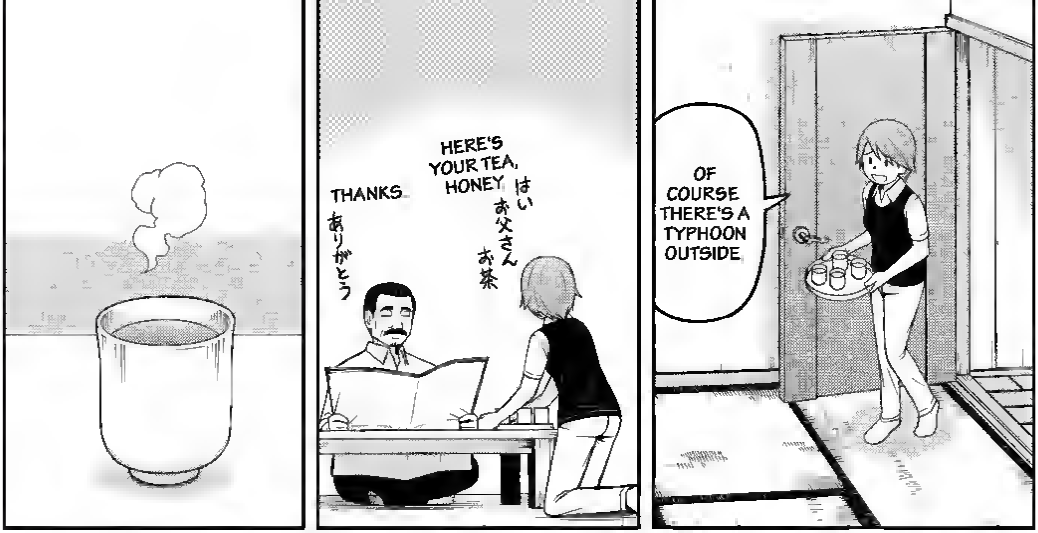
THERE IT GOES
どっこいしょ


GOOD GRIEF
CLACK
ガチャ


HON, COULD I GET A HOT CUP OF TEA?
え？ WHAT?
MOM'S OFF FROM WORK TODAY, TOO?

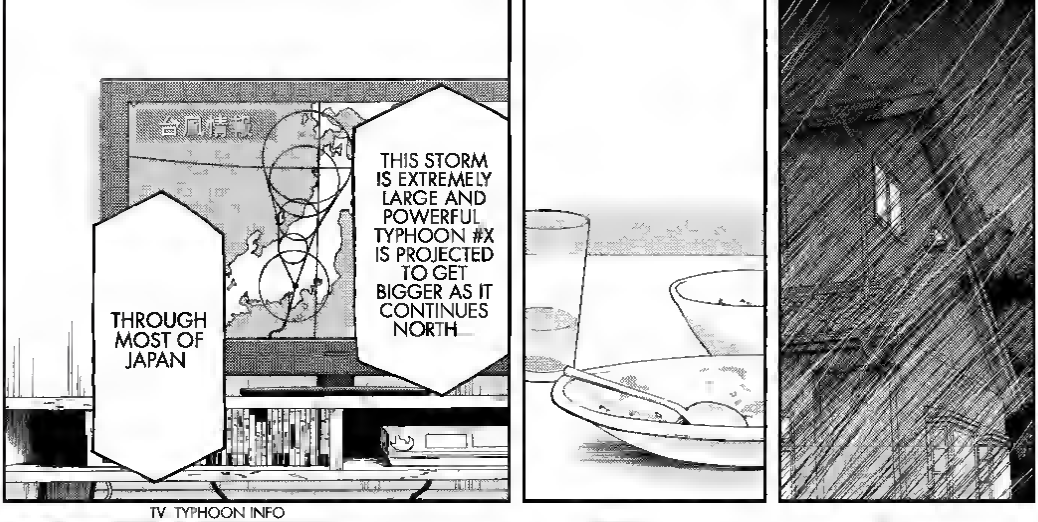

DAD, WHAT ABOUT THE CAFÉ?

WE'RE CLOSED FOR THE DAY.
客なんか来やせん
NO ONE'S GONNA COME IN THIS WEATHER.

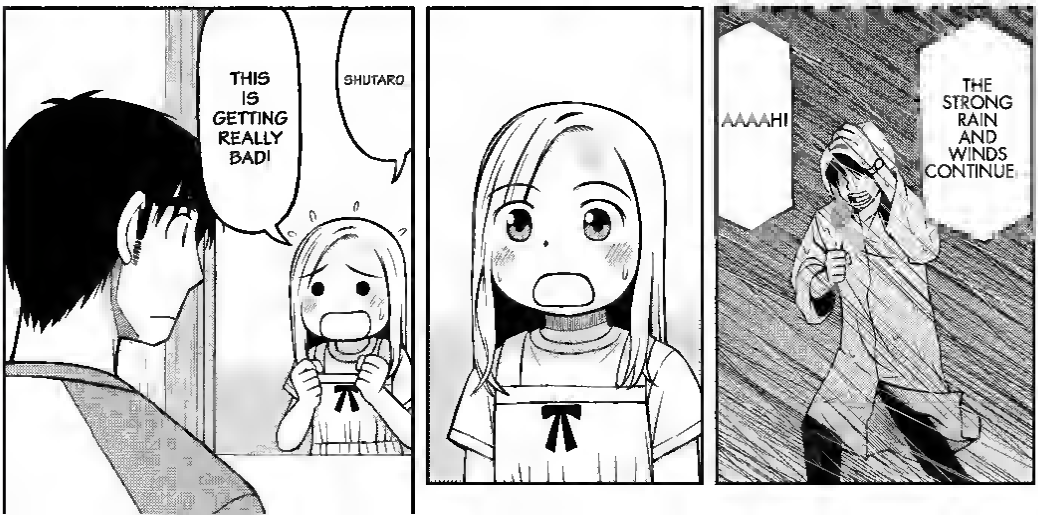

OF COURSE THERE'S A TYPHOON OUTSIDE
はい お父さん お茶
HERE'S YOUR TEA, HONEY
ありがとう
THANKS

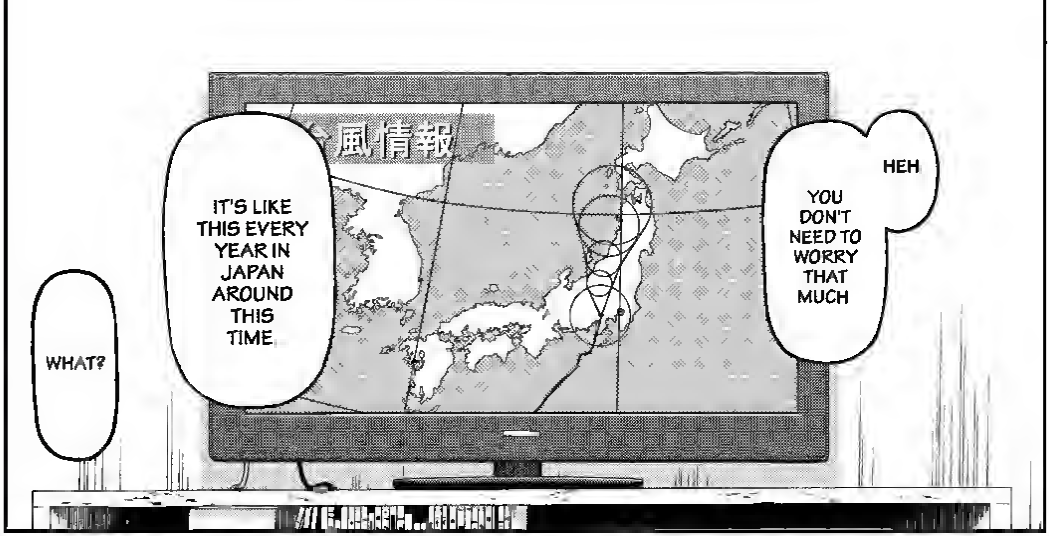
ヒュー
オオオオ
WOOSH

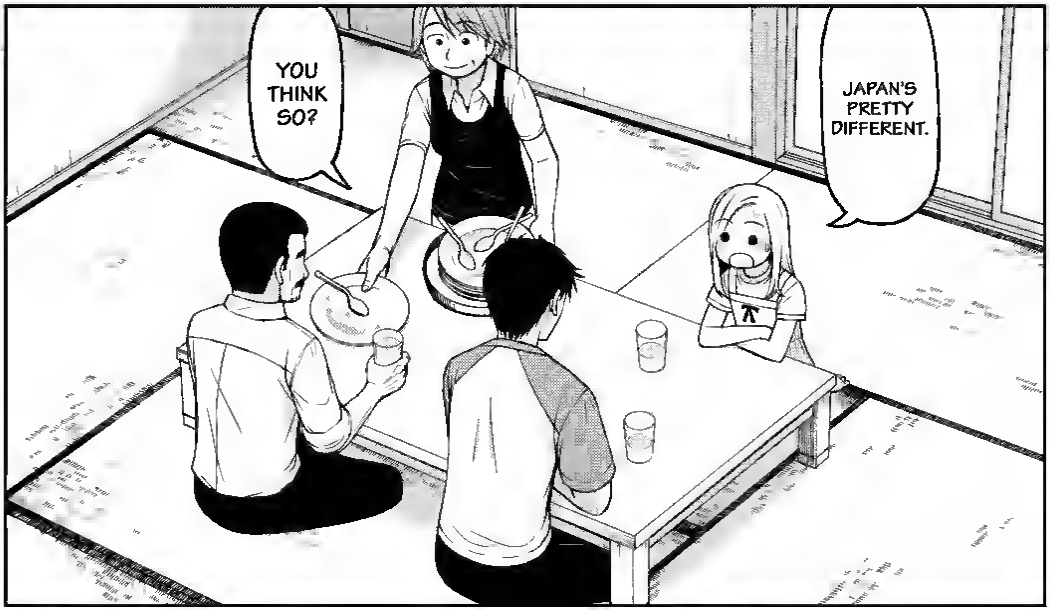
IT'S PRETTY RARE FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY TO BE TOGETHER IN THE MIDDLE OF A WEEKDAY LIKE THIS.
BUT WOW...
*FAMILY GATHERING.
WHAT'S THAT?
IKKA DANRAN?
SO WE'VE ENDED UP HAVING AN IKKA DANRAN* BECAUSE OF THE TYPHOON.
HUH.
RUSTLE
IT'S WHEN THE WHOLE FAMILY GETS TOGETHER.
IF YOU PUT IT THAT WAY, TYPHOONS AREN'T SO BAD.
HAHA
WELL,

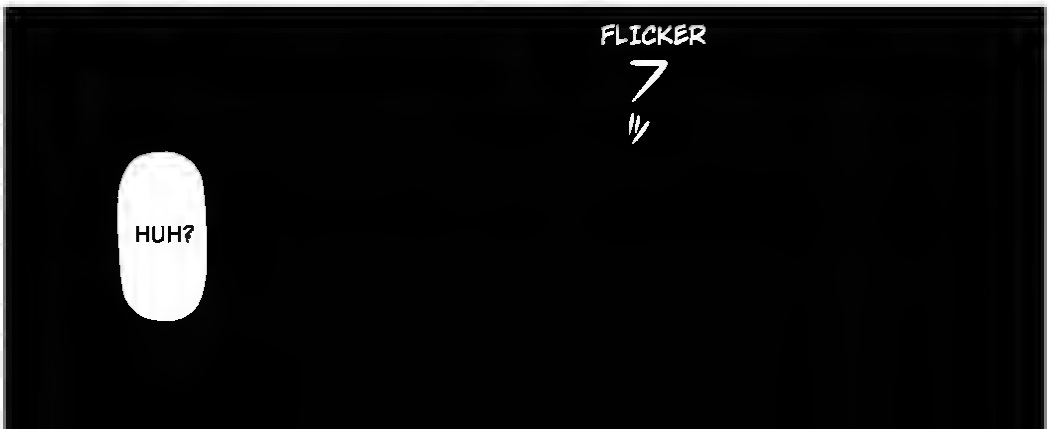

THIS STORM IS EXTREMELY LARGE AND POWERFUL. TYPHOON #X IS PROJECTED TO GET BIGGER AS IT CONTINUES NORTH...
THROUGH MOST OF JAPAN
TV: TYPHOON INFO

I'M AT XX FISHING HARBOR IN XX CITY...
AND AS YOU CAN SEE, THE WAVES ARE VIOLENTLY CRASHING BEHIND ME...
AND IT'S VERY DANGEROUS IT'S IMPORTANT TO BE CAREFUL OUT HERE.

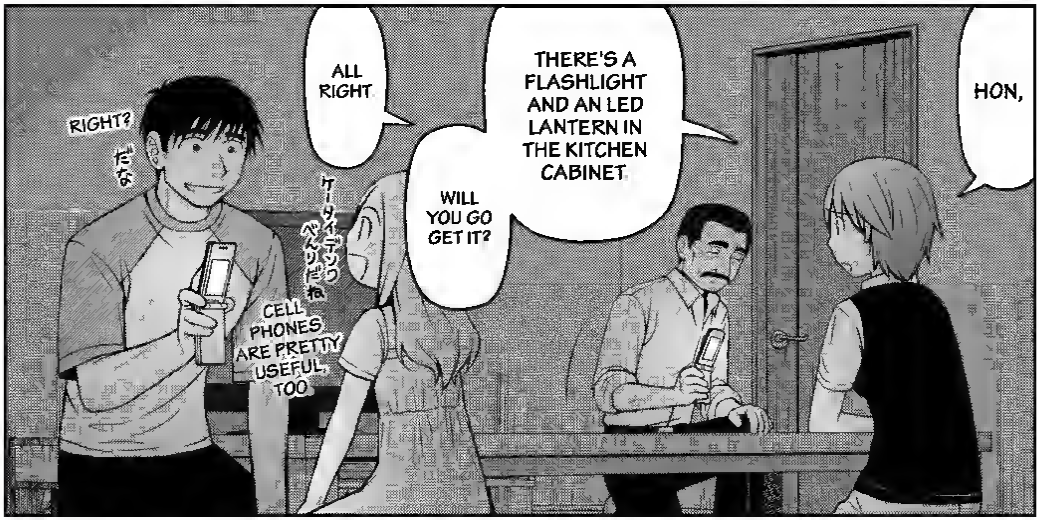

SHUTARO
THIS IS GETTING REALLY BAD!
AAAAHI
THE STRONG RAIN AND WINDS CONTINUE.


風情報
WHAT?
IT'S LIKE THIS EVERY YEAR IN JAPAN AROUND THIS TIME.
HEH
YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY THAT MUCH
TV...TYPHOON INFO

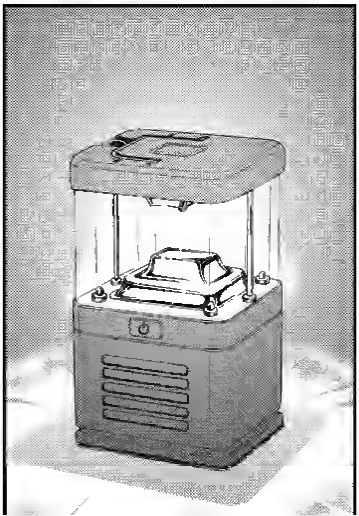

YOU THINK SO?
JAPAN'S PRETTY DIFFERENT.


FLICKER
7
HUH?

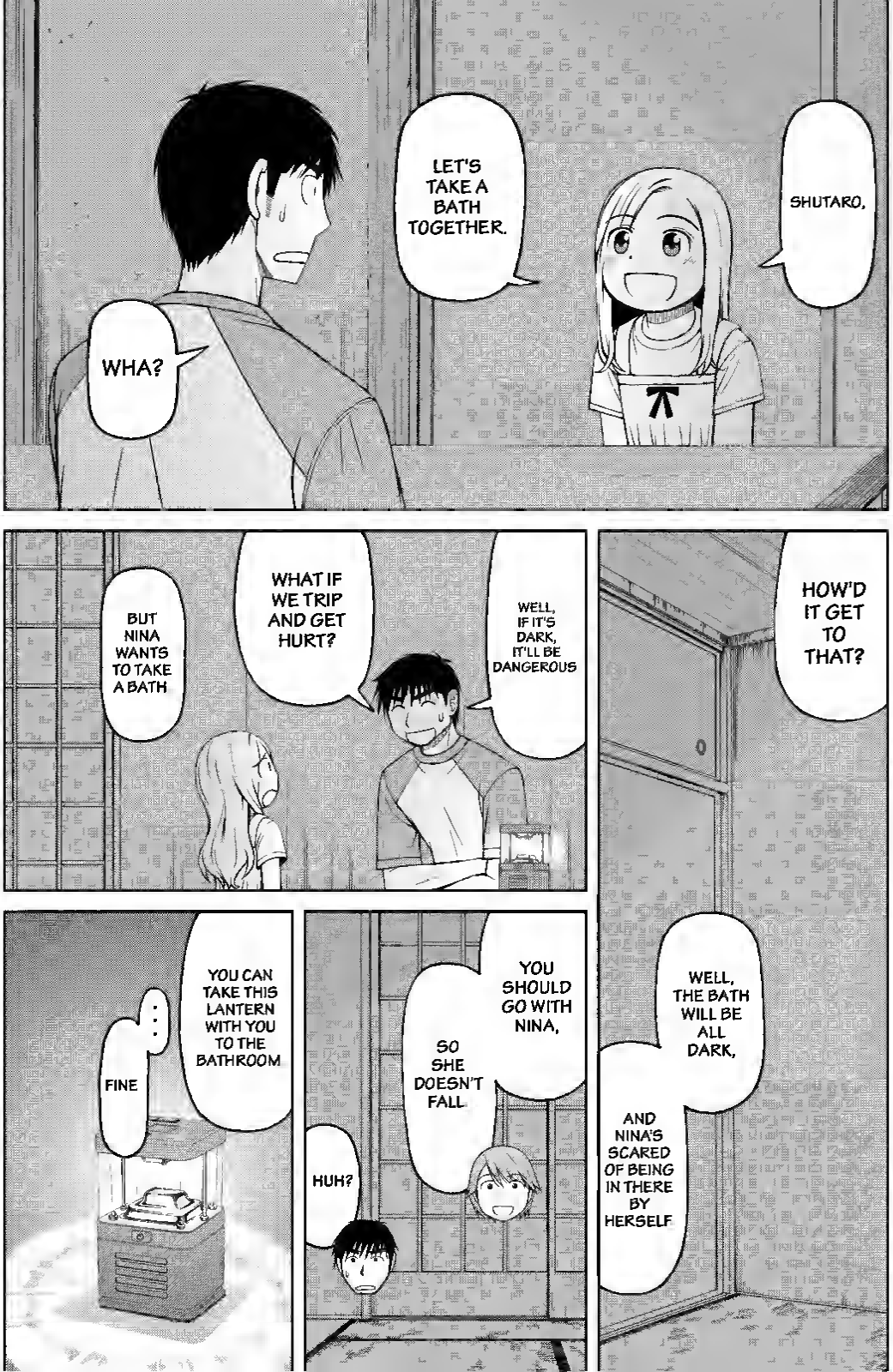
HEY, NINA CAN SEE A LITTLE
FLASH
HOLD ON A SEC
WE'VE LOST POWER
WHY?
THE ROOM GOT ALL DARK


HON,
THERE'S A FLASHLIGHT AND AN LED LANTERN IN THE KITCHEN CABINET
WILL YOU GO GET IT?
ALL RIGHT
RIGHT? だな
ケータイってつくべんりだね
CELL PHONES ARE PRETTY USEFUL TOO

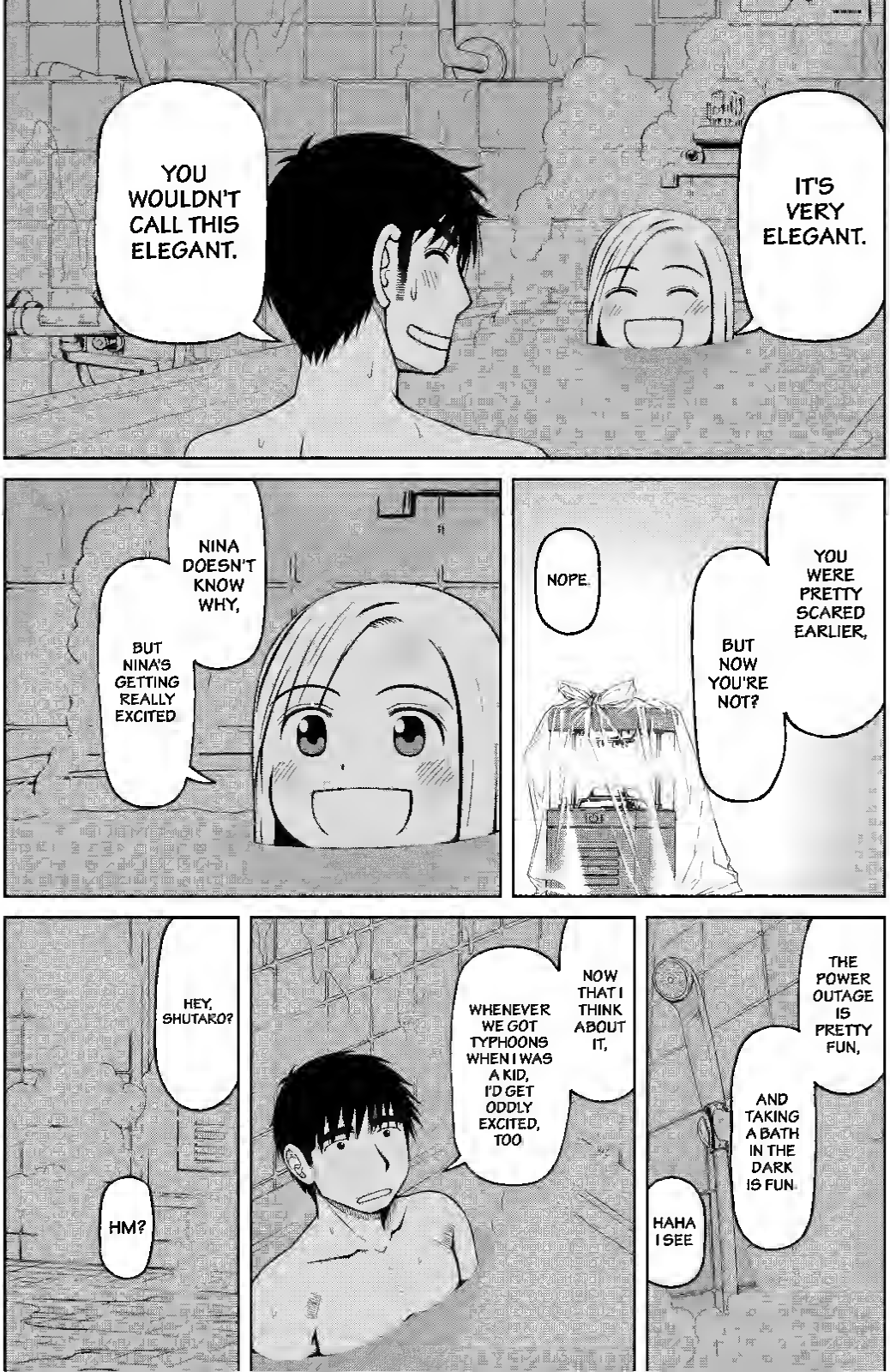
SO PRETTY
WOW LED LANTERNS ARE PRETTY BRIGHT



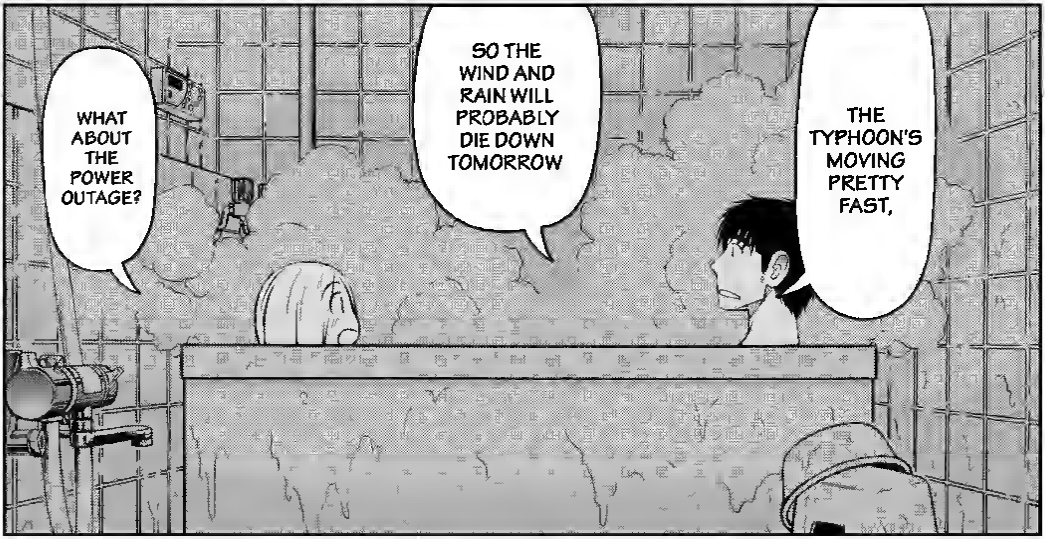
HMM...
WOOSH
오오오오오
I WONDER IF THE FOOD IN THE FRIDGE WILL BE OKAY
PROB-ABLY
AT THIS RATE, WE PROBABLY WON'T GET POWER BACK UNTIL TOMORROW
BATH, HUH...
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?
JUST IN CASE, I DID FILL THE BATHTUB ALREADY
EVEN IF THE POWER'S OFF, THE GAS AND WATER WILL BE OKAY, RIGHT?
PROB-ABLY...

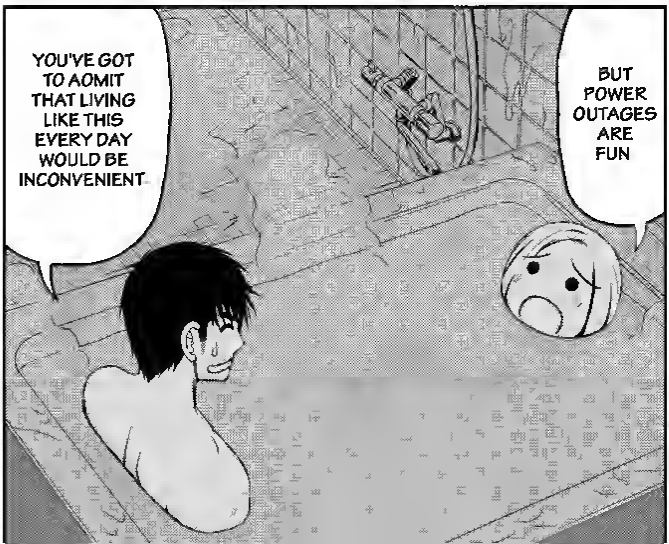

SHUTARO,
LET'S TAKE A BATH TOGETHER.
WHA?
WELL, IF IT'S DARK, IT'LL BE DANGEROUS
WHAT IF WE TRIP AND GET HURT?
BUT NINA WANTS TO TAKE A BATH
HOW'D IT GET TO THAT?
WELL, THE BATH WILL BE ALL DARK,
AND NINA'S SCARED OF BEING IN THERE BY HERSELF
YOU SHOULD GO WITH NINA,
SO SHE DOESN'T FALL
HUH?
YOU CAN TAKE THIS LANTERN WITH YOU TO THE BATHROOM
FINE
. . .

SPLASH
バアアア
WOOSH
オオオオオオヒュ!!
WHEW
IT FEELS SO GOOD.
THE WIND SOUNDS PRETTY INTENSE.
YEAH
ROAR
ゴオオオオ…


IT'S VERY ELEGANT.
YOU WOULDN'T CALL THIS ELEGANT.
YOU WERE PRETTY SCARED EARLIER,
BUT NOW YOU'RE NOT?
NOPE.
NINA DOESN'T KNOW WHY,
BUT NINA'S GETTING REALLY EXCITED
THE POWER OUTAGE IS PRETTY FUN,
AND TAKING A BATH IN THE DARK IS FUN.
HAHA I SEE
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT,
WHENEVER WE GOT TYPHOONS WHEN I WAS A KID, I'D GET ODDLY EXCITED, TOO.
HEY, SHUTARO?
HM?

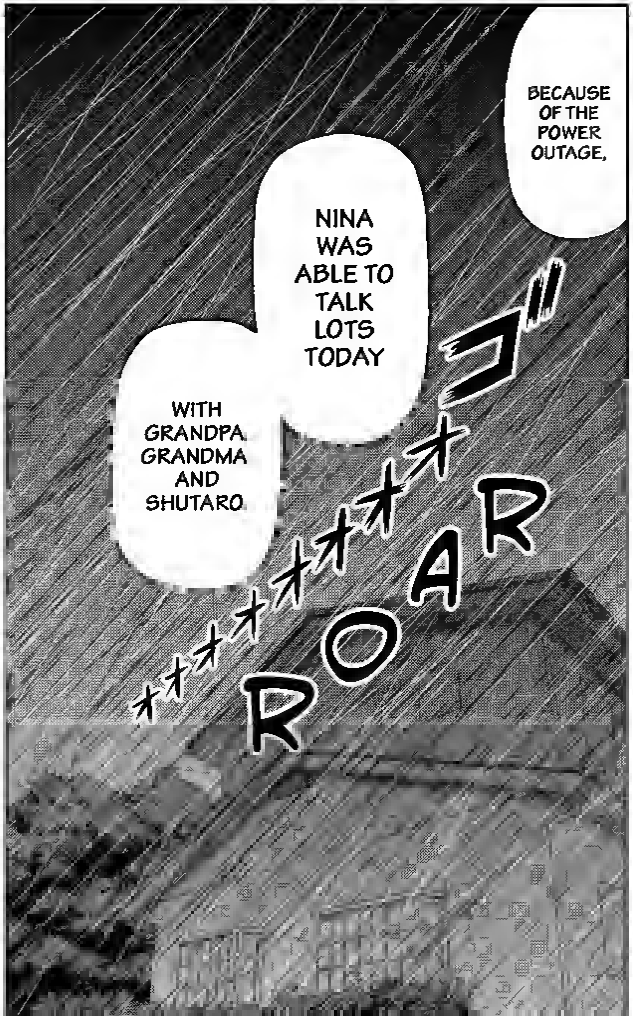
WHAT'S IT GOING TO BE LIKE TOMOR-ROW?
TOMOR-ROW?


THE TYPHOON'S MOVING PRETTY FAST,
SO THE WIND AND RAIN WILL PROBABLY DIE DOWN TOMORROW
WHAT ABOUT THE POWER OUTAGE?


BUT POWER OUTAGES ARE FUN
YOU'VE GOT TO ADMIT THAT LIVING LIKE THIS EVERY DAY WOULD BE INCONVENIENT.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY. IT'LL BE DONE TOMORROW.
AWW...

NOT TO MENTION...
IF THE POWER'S OUT, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO WATCH YOUR PRECIOUS "PRETTY CAN"
WHAT?!
THAT'S NO GOOD!
SEE?


BECAUSE OF THE POWER OUTAGE,
NINA WAS ABLE TO TALK LOTS TODAY
WITH GRANDPA, GRANDMA AND SHUTARO
ゴォォォォォォォォォォ
ROAR

YEAH...
BUT,

I SEE..

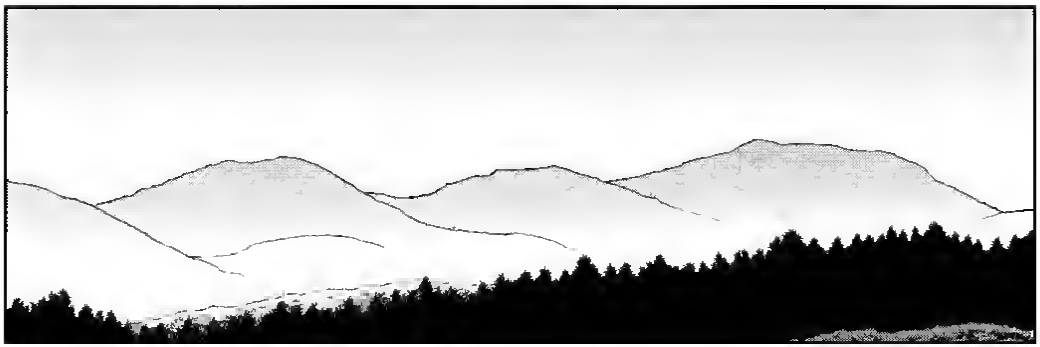
SPLASH
ALL RIGHT.
...

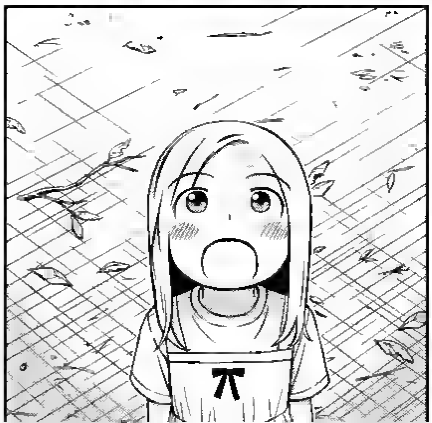
AND I'LL WASH YOUR BACK, TOO.
YAY!
SPLASH

ALL RIGHT, TODAY YOU GET SPECIAL SERVICE.
I'LL WASH YOUR HAIR TODAY LIKE I DID BEFORE.
OOH!

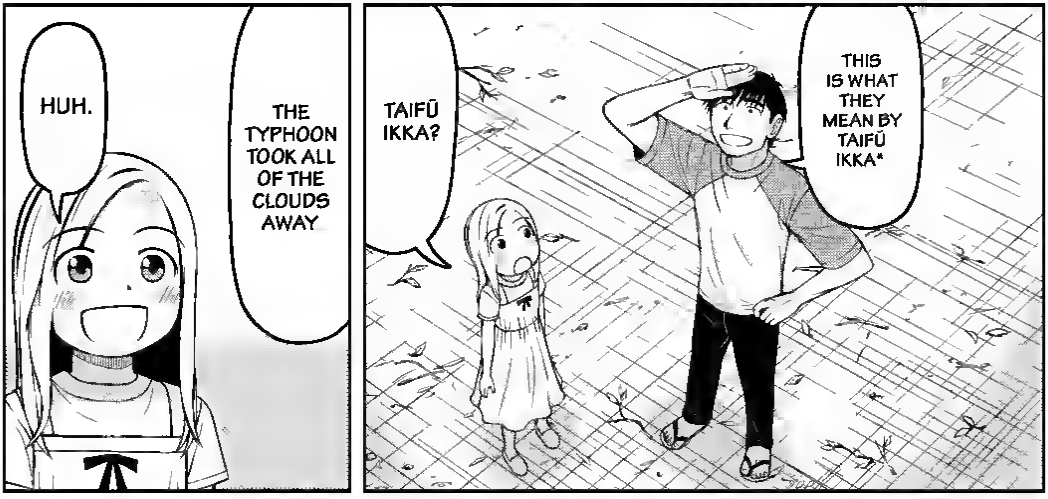
IN RETURN, WILL YOU WASH MY BACK, NINA?
AWW, BUT NINA DOESN'T WANNA.
WHA—
YOU DON'T WANT TO?

ROAR
オオオオオオ





* A WORD REFERRING TO THE BLUE SKIES THAT APPEAR WHEN A TYPHOON HAS PASSED

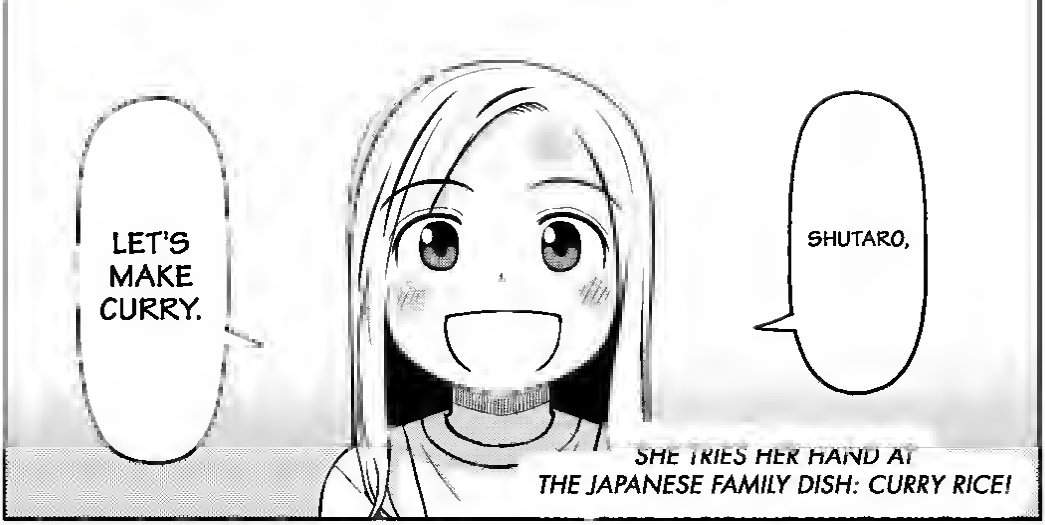


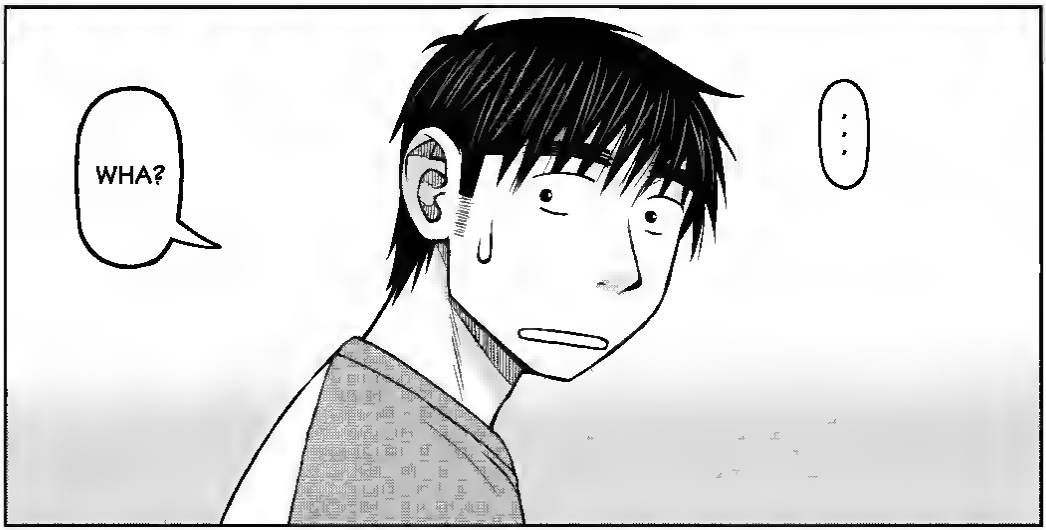

* NINA'S MIXED UP THE TWO KANJI FOR IKKA, AND HAS SAID "TYPHOON FAMILIES" INSTEAD

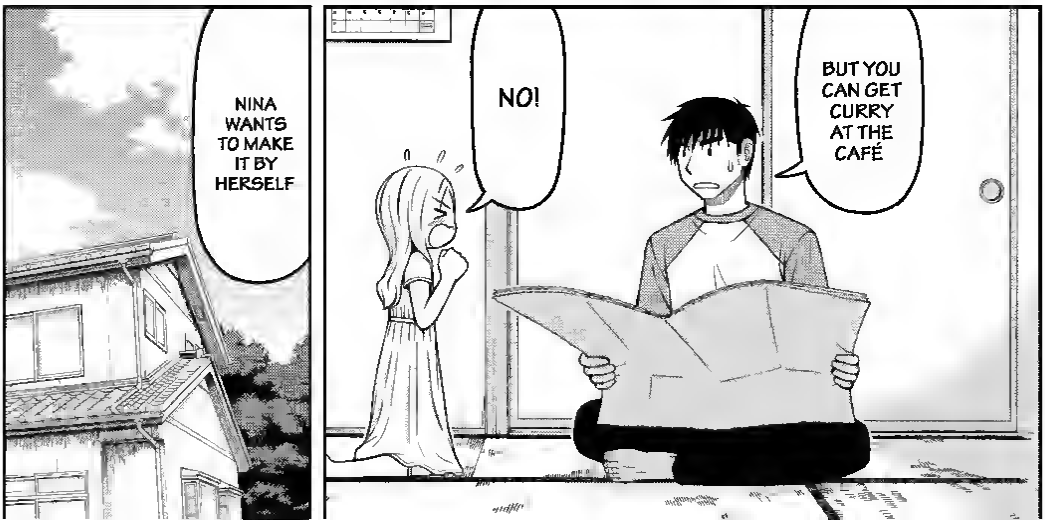
*IT WAS A DAY WHERE THE TYPHOON BROUGHT THE FAMILY A LITTLE CLOSER.*

CHAPTER 29

# THE SECRET OF DELICIOUSNESS

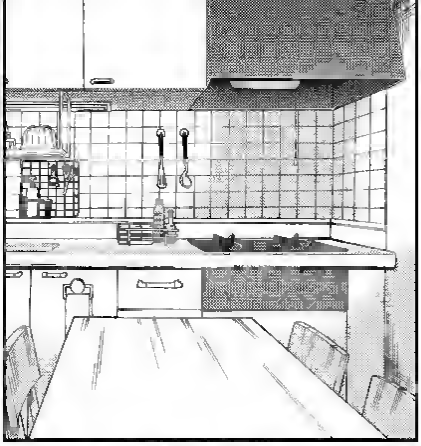

SHUTARO,
LET'S MAKE CURRY.
SHE TRIES HER HAND AT THE JAPANESE FAMILY DISH: CURRY RICE!


...
WHA?

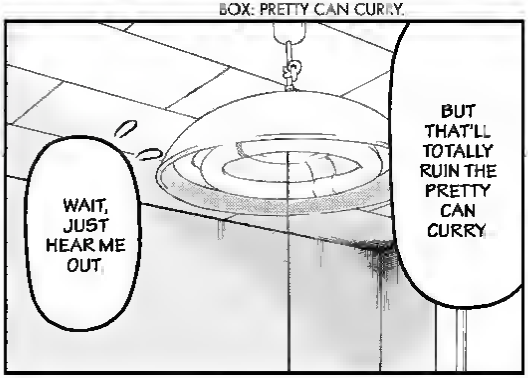

BUT YOU CAN GET CURRY AT THE CAFÉ
NO!
NINA WANTS TO MAKE IT BY HERSELF

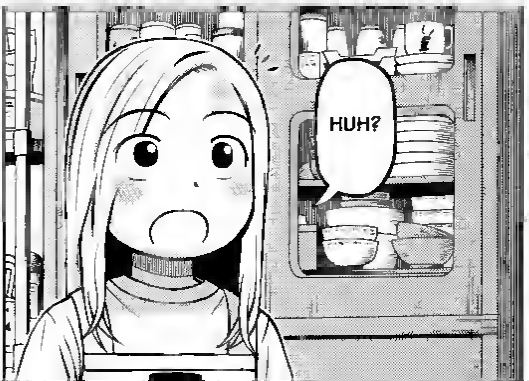
YOU SURE YOU'RE UP FOR IT?
YEAH!
NINA THINKS
CURRY'S PRETTY HARD TO MAKE, YOU KNOW.
BY YOURSELF?
BUT NEE-CHAN WAS PRETTY SERIOUS ABOUT COOKING
WOW
IT PROBABLY HAS TO DO WITH OAO BEING A COOK,
MOMMY SAID SHE STARTED COOKING IN GRADE SCHOOL, TOO...
OH...
YEAH I GUESS SHE WAS COOKING BACK THEN
NINA WANTS TO BE ABLE TO COOK LIKE MOMMY.
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT.
ONE DAY, SHE RANDOMLY BOUGHT CHICKEN BONES AND MADE RAMEN BROTH IN A STOCKPOT... I WAS REALLY SURPRISED.

BOX: PRETTY CAN CURRY.



BOX: JUWA CURRY



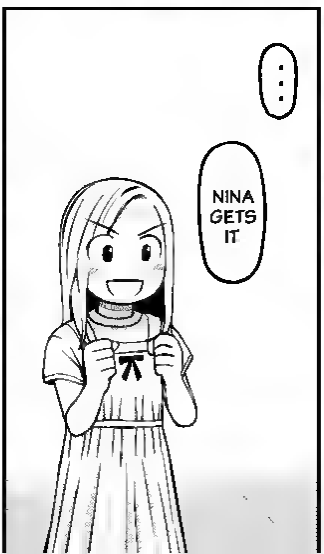


I'M SERIOUS
REALLY?
STARE

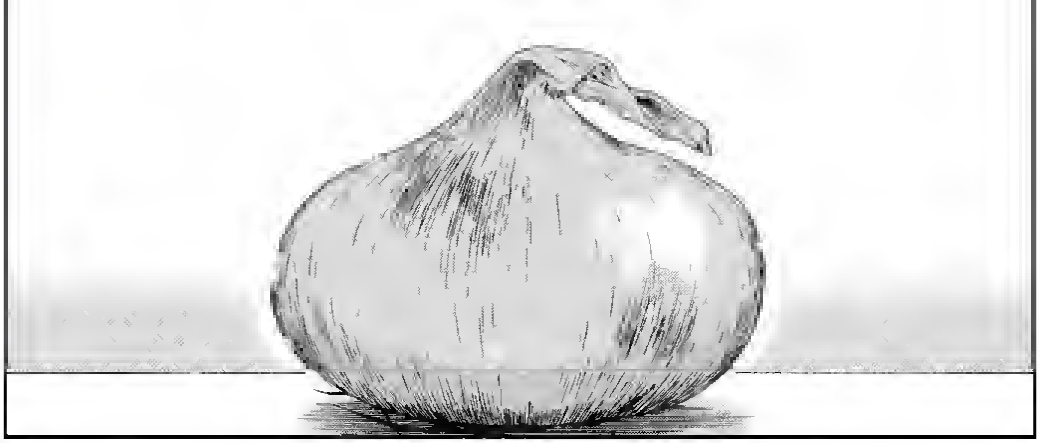
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO CREATE YOUR OWN SPECIAL BLEND
BUT WHEN YOU COMBINE IT WITH THIS ONE,
MEANING, PRETTY CAN CURRY IS DELICIOUS ON ITS OWN...
OOH!

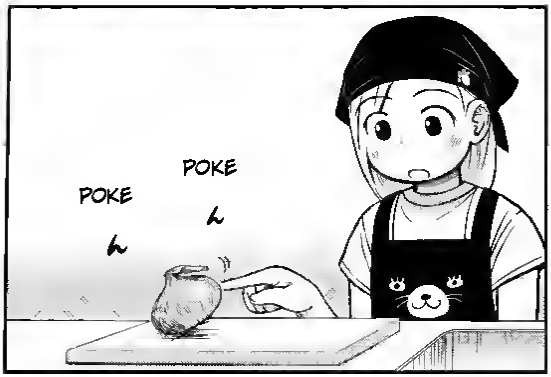
THE SPICES IN EACH ONE ARE PRETTY DIFFERENT, SO IF YOU MIX TWO TYPES TOGETHER,
SO YOU'LL GET A GOOD BLEND AND THE CURRY WILL BECOME EVEN MORE DELICIOUS.
...

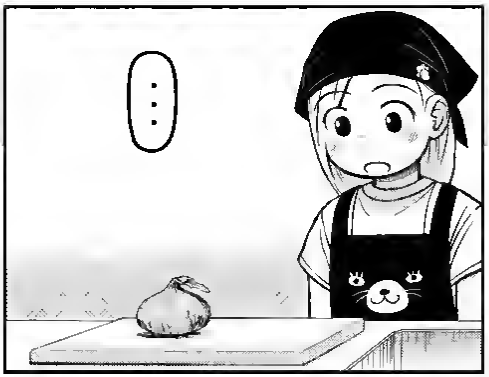
OKAY, THEN
ALL RIGHT, IT'S SETTLED


...
NINA GETS IT

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, SHUTARO
THE APRON WE GOT THE OTHER DAY.
IT LOOKS GOOD ON YOU.
DOESN'T IT?
TA-DA!
AND YOU HAVE YOUR OWN KNIFE?
WELL, LOOK AT YOU.
TE HE HE.
SHUTARO,
LET'S START COOKING.
OKAY.




POKE
POKE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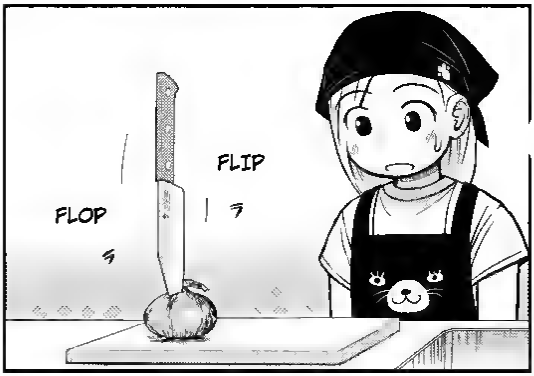
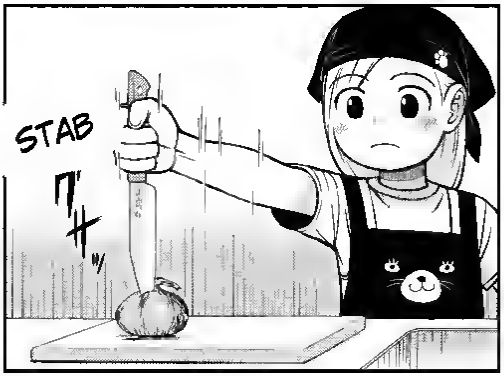
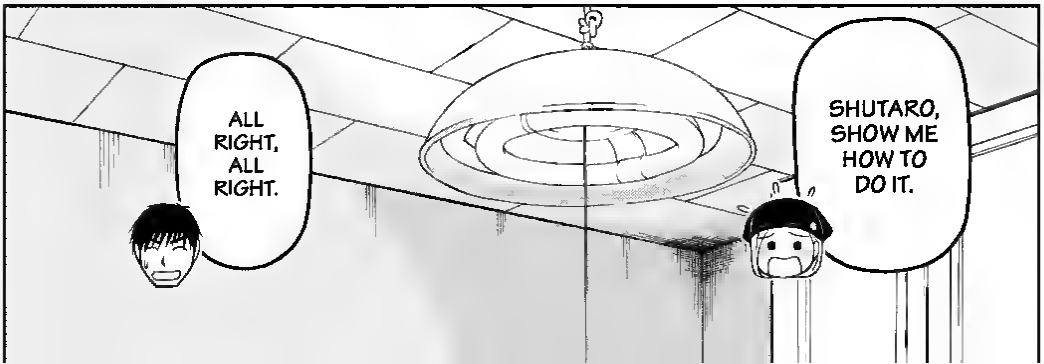
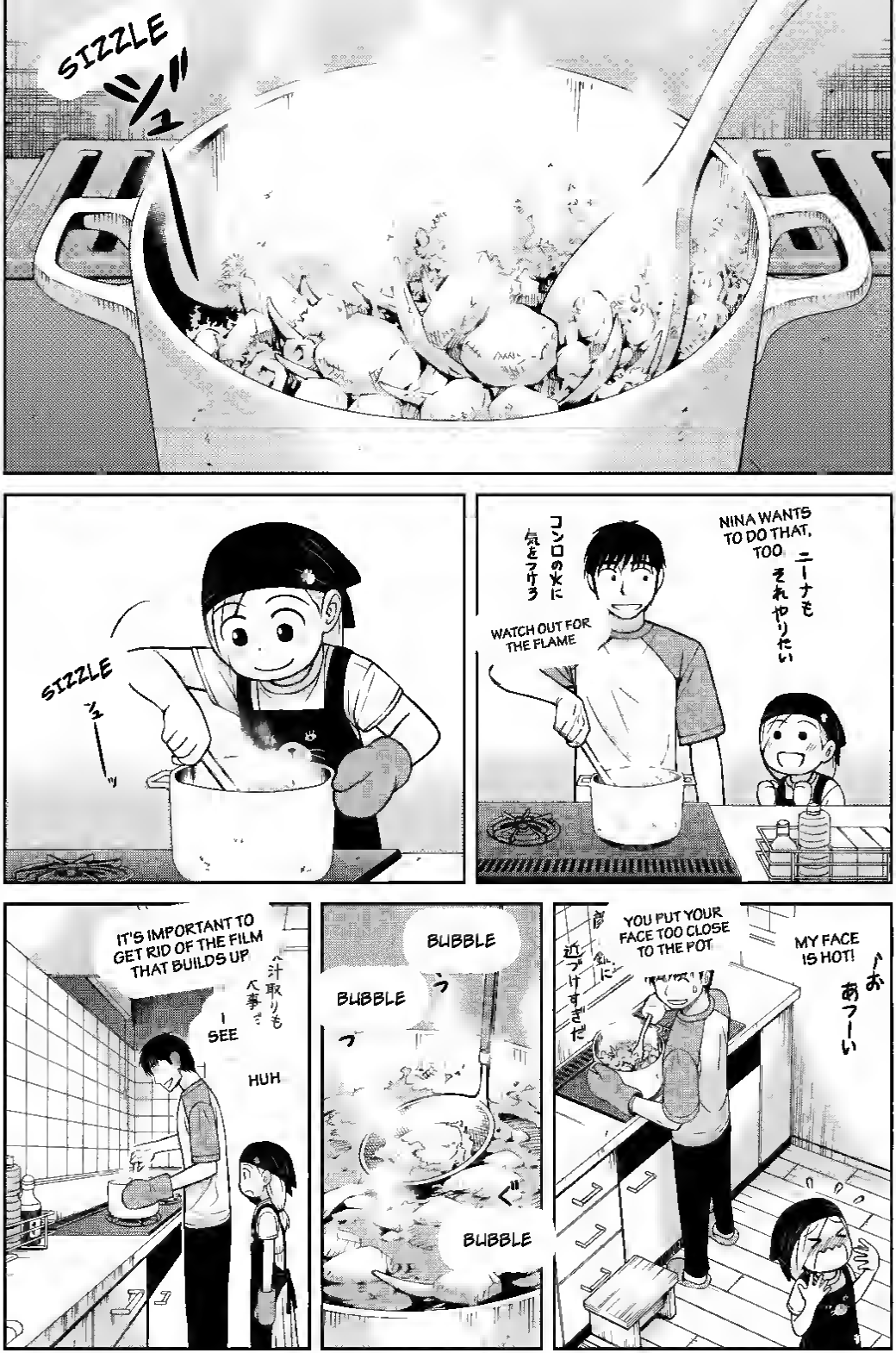

FLOP
FLIP


STAB

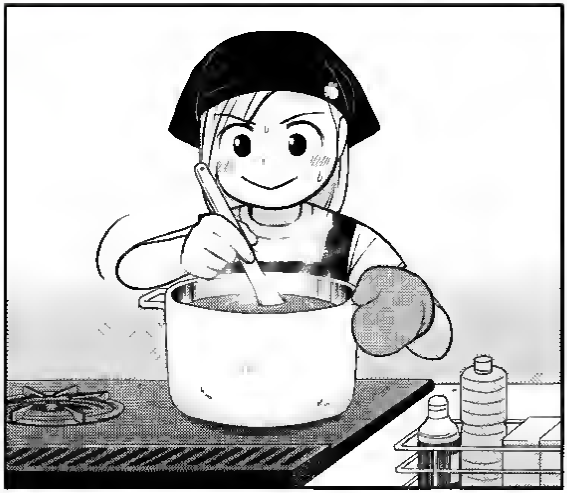

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT.
SHUTARO, SHOW ME HOW TO DO IT.

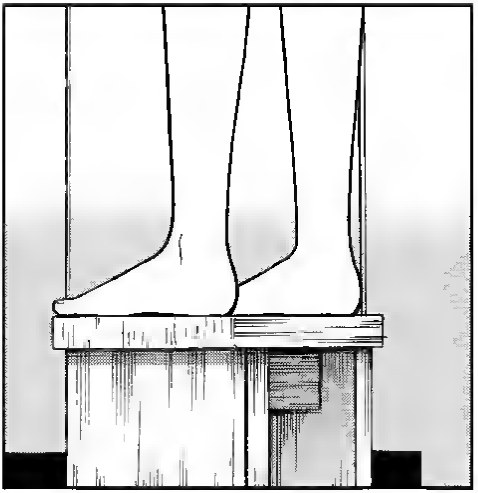
THIS IS HOW YOU CUT ONIONS
たまねぎはこんな感じだな
SLICE
SLICE
WOW
へー
SLICE
SLICE
SLICE
SO THIN!
ほそーい
HUH?
あれ？
MY EYES HURT! WHY?!
目がしみる
なんぞ？
はは
HA HA
SLIDE
シュー
OH
あっ
THIS IS FUN!
コレおもしろい!!
SLICE
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, SLICING THE CARROTS THAT THIN?
人参をそんなにスライスしてどーすんだ


SIZZLE
ジュ
SIZZLE
ジュー
WATCH OUT FOR THE FLAME
コンロの火に気をつけろ
NINA WANTS TO DO THAT, TOO
ニーナもそれやりたい
IT'S IMPORTANT TO GET RID OF THE FILM THAT BUILDS UP
アク取りも大事だ
I SEE
HUH
BUBBLE
BUBBLE
BUBBLE
BUBBLE
YOU PUT YOUR FACE TOO CLOSE TO THE POT
顔を鍋に近づけすぎだ
MY FACE IS HOT!
あつーい

YUMA CURRY
WE'RE READY TO PUT THE CURRY ROUX IN
OKAY!
ALL RIGHT.
IT SMELLS SO GOOD
SIGH
SNIFF
SNIFF
IT SMELLS SO DELICIOUS
SIGH
SNIFF
SNIFF
HURRY UP AND PUT THE ROUX IN.
NINA
SNIFF
SNIFF

NOW THAT WE'VE PUT THE ROUX IN, IT LOOKS DONE ALREADY.
SHUTARO,
HUH?
...
NOT QUITE
THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART WHEN COOKING CURRY.
REALLY?
YEAH.
YOU WANNA TRY, NINA?
YOU GO LIKE THIS.
STIR IT AROUND SLOWLY
AND LET IT SIMMER SO THE BOTTOM DOESN'T BURN





BUBBLE
BUBBLE
BUBBLE

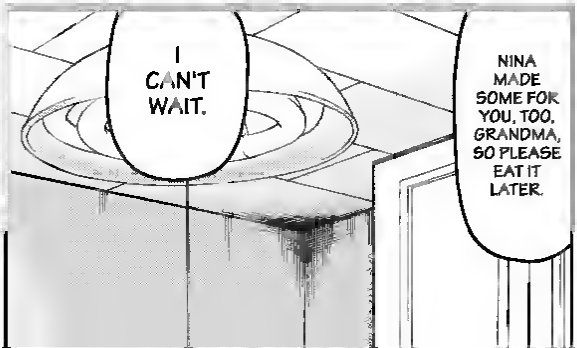
I'M HOME.

...

WELCOME HOME.
WELCOME HOME, GRANDMA

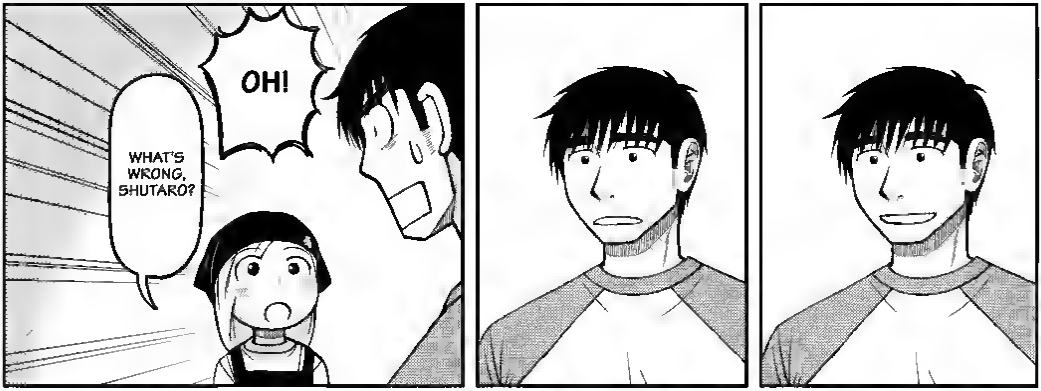
OOH, SOMETHING SMELLS GOOD.

YEP.
WHAT'S THIS? NINA-CHAN'S MAKING CURRY?

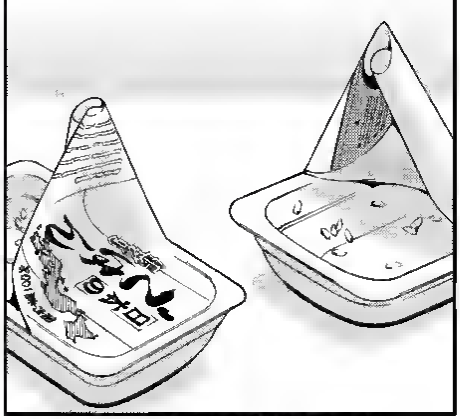

I CAN'T WAIT.
NINA MADE SOME FOR YOU, TOO, GRANDMA, SO PLEASE EAT IT LATER.

OH.
RUMBLE
HAHA
THAT WAS PRETTY LOUD.
SHUTARO,
NINA'S STARVING NOW
WE CAN'T EAT IT YET?
LET'S CALL IT GOOD.
BUT I'M GETTING HUNGRY, TOO...
HMM... USUALLY CURRY IS EVEN BETTER WHEN YOU LET IT SIT FOR ABOUT HALF A DAY...

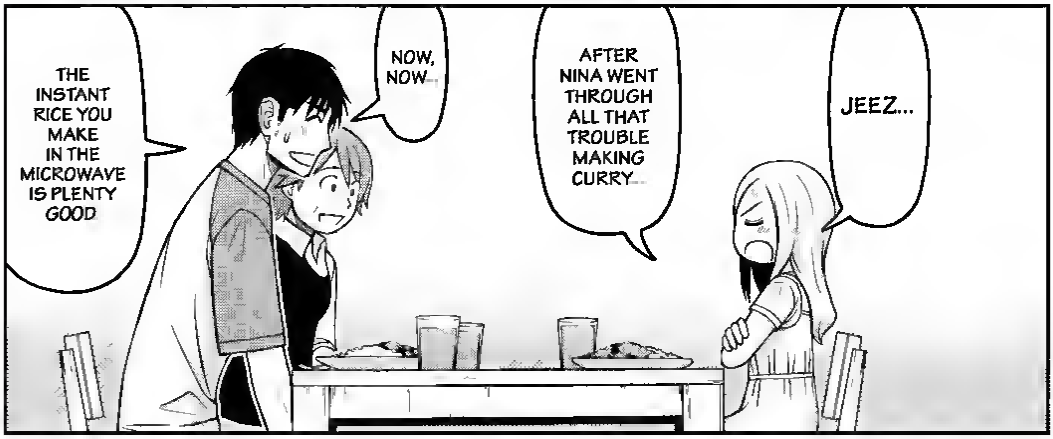
IT'S DONE!
YAY!

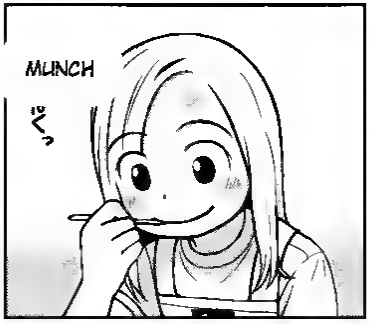

OH!
WHAT'S WRONG, SHUTARO?

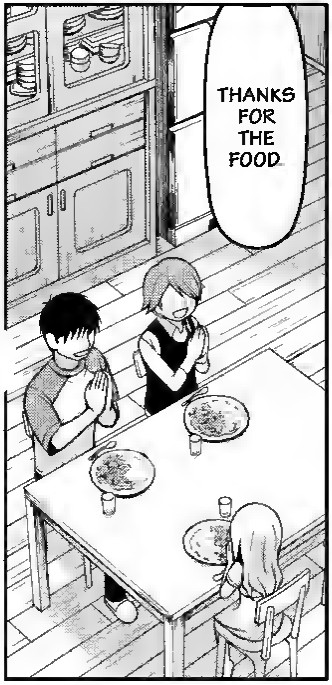
SORRY...
FORGOT TO MAKE THE RICE...

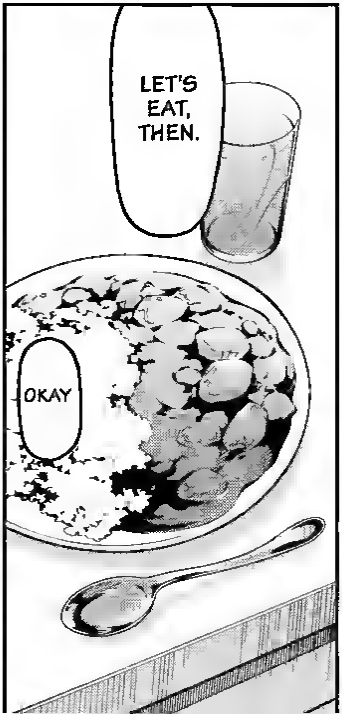


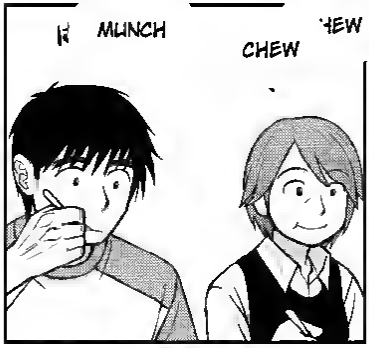
RICE PACKAGES: RICE & JAPANESE RICE


THE INSTANT RICE YOU MAKE IN THE MICROWAVE IS PLENTY GOOD
NOW, NOW...
AFTER NINA WENT THROUGH ALL THAT TROUBLE MAKING CURRY...
JEEZ...

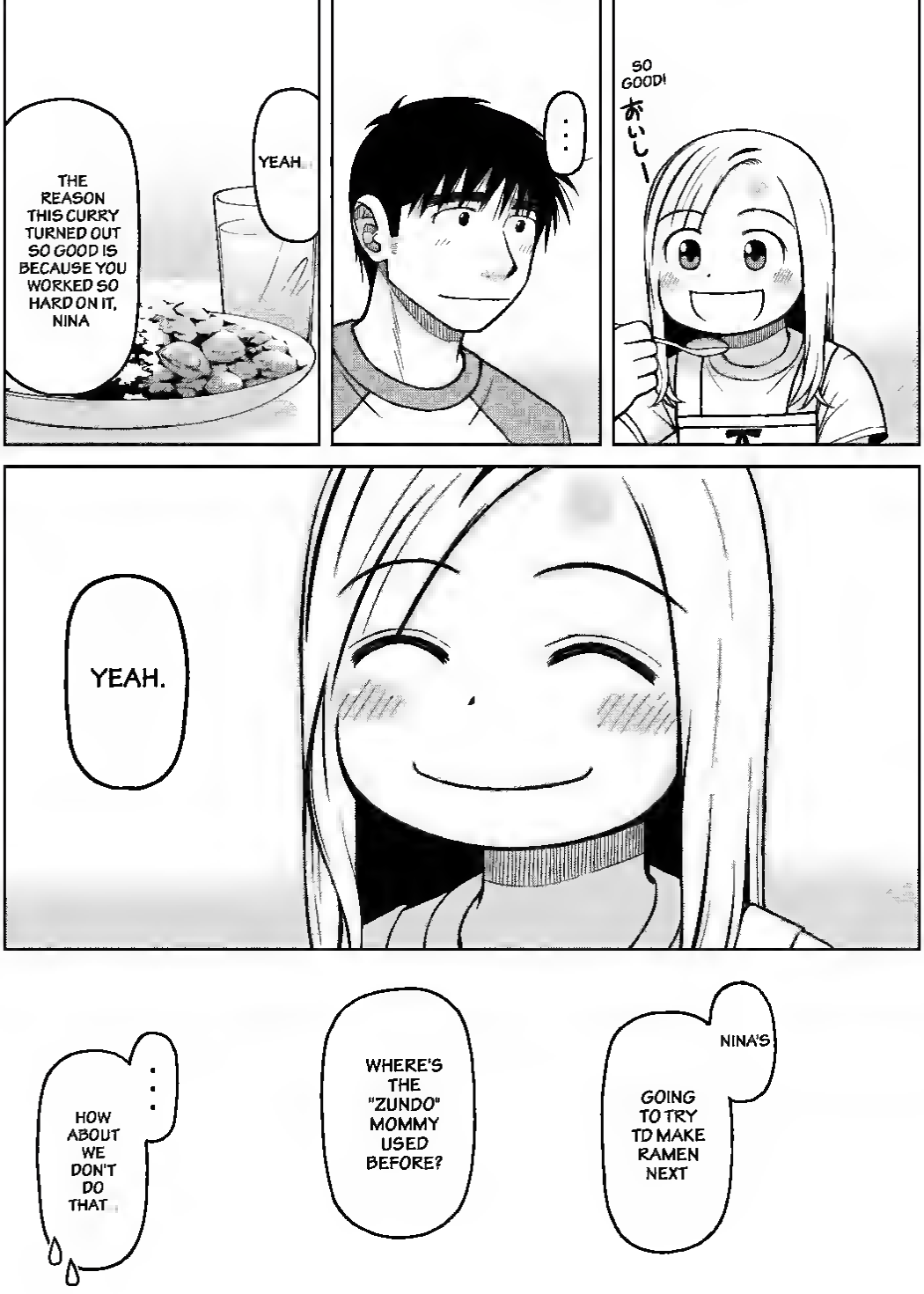


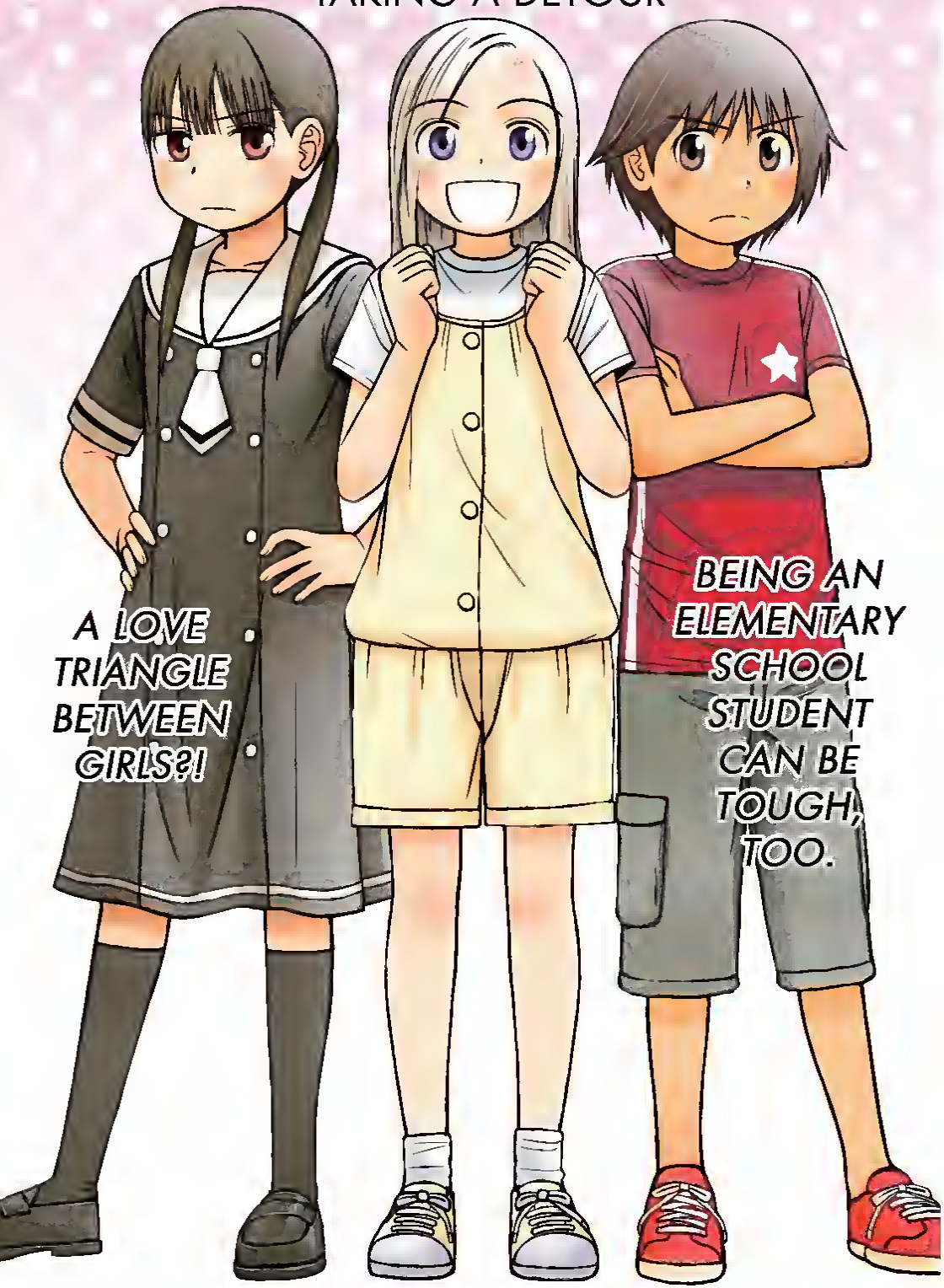



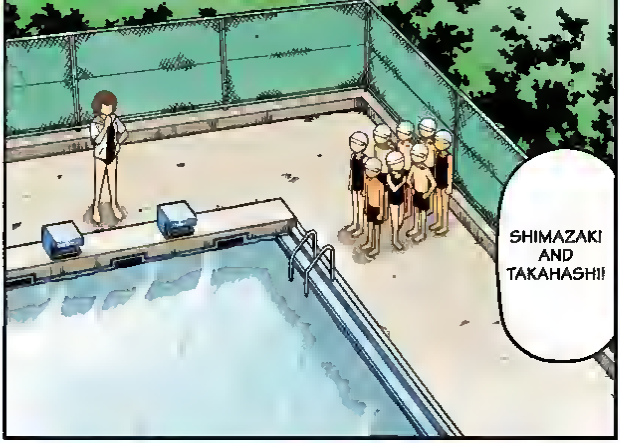



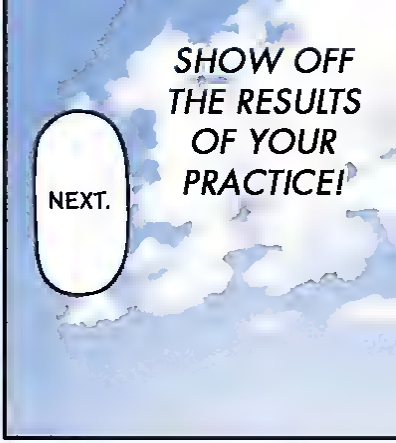
IT'S GOOD
MY, IT IS GOOD
IT'S SO GOOD!
SHUTARO, IT'S A HUGE SUCCESS!
YEAH.
CONGRATS, NINA.
THANKS
HEY! DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT!
S-SORRY
OW!
PINCH
THE POWER OF THE JAPANESE CURRY ROUX IS INDEED MIGHTY...
BUT TO THINK THIS ENDED UP SO GOOD...
MAN... I FELT LIKE WE WERE WINGING IT,


THE REASON THIS CURRY TURNED OUT SO GOOD IS BECAUSE YOU WORKED SO HARD ON IT, NINA
YEAH
...
SO GOOD!
おいしー
YEAH.
NINA'S GOING TO TRY TO MAKE RAMEN NEXT
WHERE'S THE "ZUNDO" MOMMY USED BEFORE?
...
HOW ABOUT WE DON'T DO THAT

# CHAPTER 30 TAKING A DETOUR

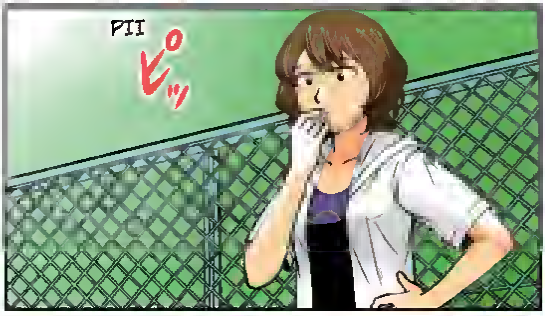


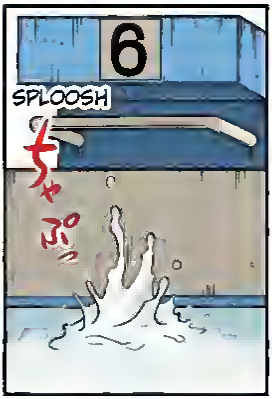

SHIMAZAKI AND TAKAHASHI!

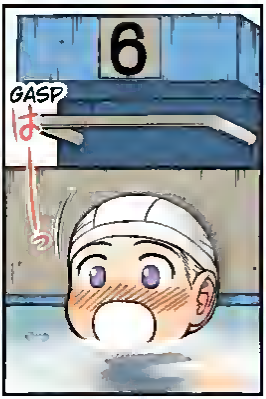

NEXT.
SHOW OFF THE RESULTS OF YOUR PRACTICE!

5
6
READY...

YES.


PII
ピー


6
SPLOOSH
ちゃぷ


6
GASP
はー

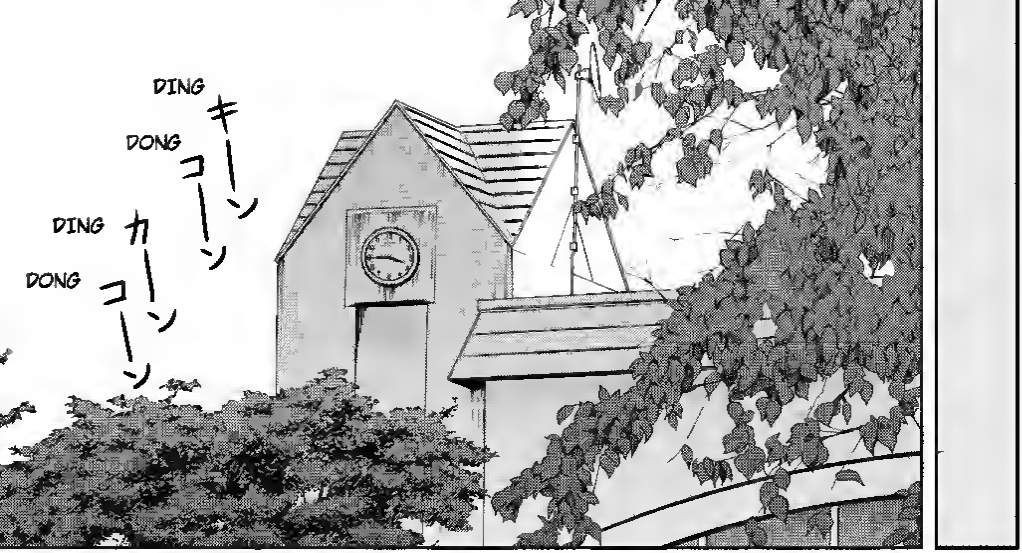
SPLASH
バチャ
SPLASH
バチャ
SPLASH
バチャ
SPLASH
バチャ

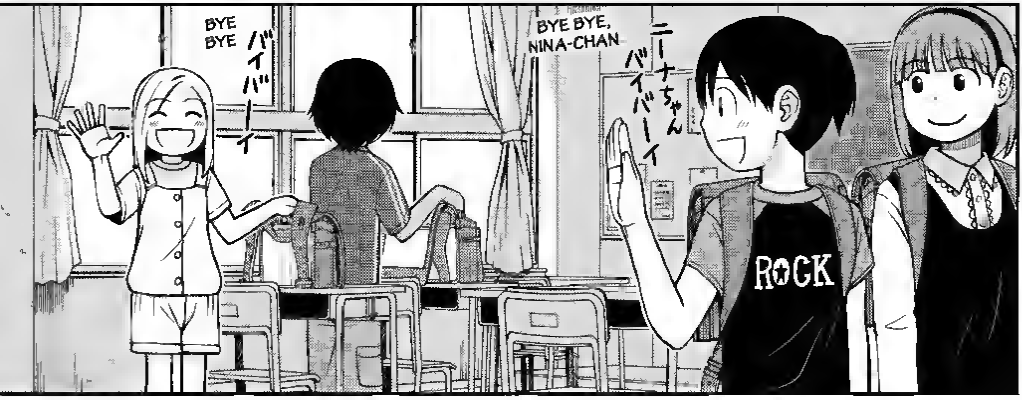
SHE MADE IT THAT FAR WITHOUT COMING UP FOR AIR..
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH

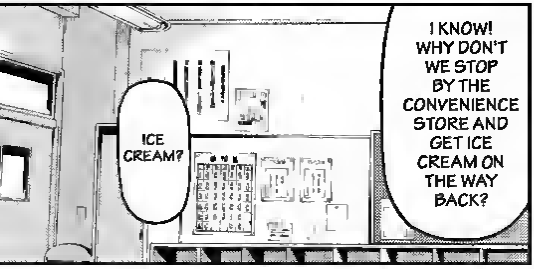
WOW.

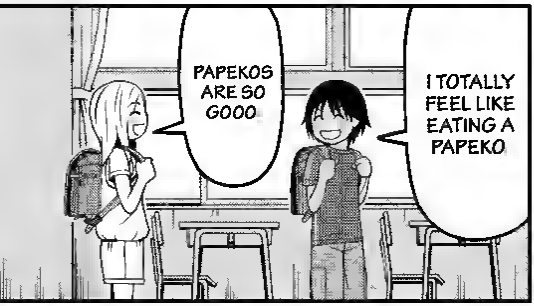
NINA'S PRETTY GOOD.
ALL RIGHT, NEXT.
TAKEMOTO AND NAKAMURA!

TE HE HE
YOU CAN SWIM JUST FINE!
WHAT THE HECK, NINA?
NINA ACTUALLY COULDN'T SWIM AT ALL UNTIL RECENTLY.
YOU WERE JUST TOTALLY FREAKING OUT, SAYING THAT YOU MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO SWIM
SO, WHO'S THIS SHUTARO?
SHUTARO'S SHUTARO
?
HUH
NINA TRAINED WITH SHUTARO DURING SUMMER VACATION
IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF SHUTARO


DING
キーン
DONG
コーン
DING
カーン
DONG
コーン

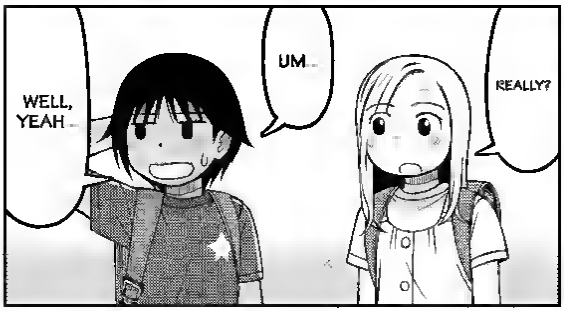

BYE BYE
バイバーイ
BYE BYE, NINA-CHAN
ニーナちゃん
バイバーイ
ROCK

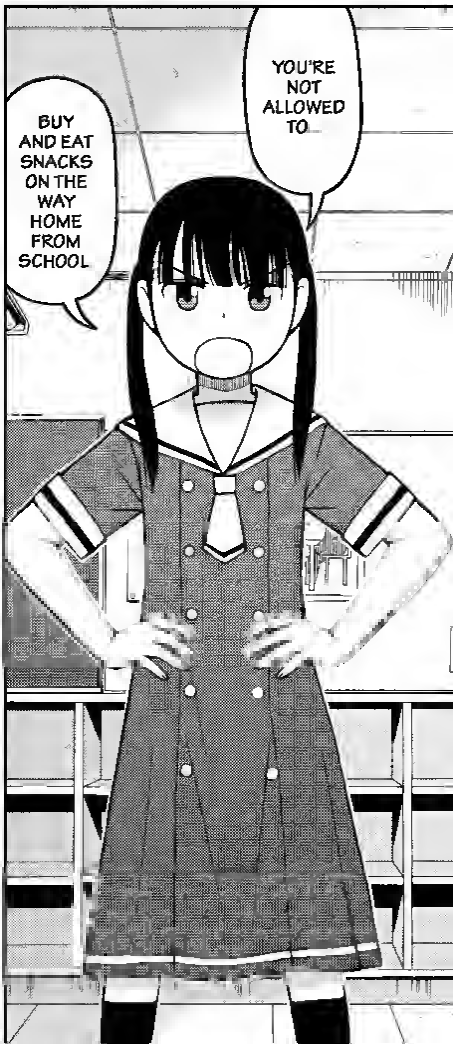

ICE CREAM?
I KNOW! WHY DON'T WE STOP BY THE CONVENIENCE STORE AND GET ICE CREAM ON THE WAY BACK?


PAPEKOS ARE SO GOOO
I TOTALLY FEEL LIKE EATING A PAPEKO

NINA.
LET'S WALK HOME TOGETHER
OKAY.

NO.


WELL, YEAH...
UM...
REALLY?

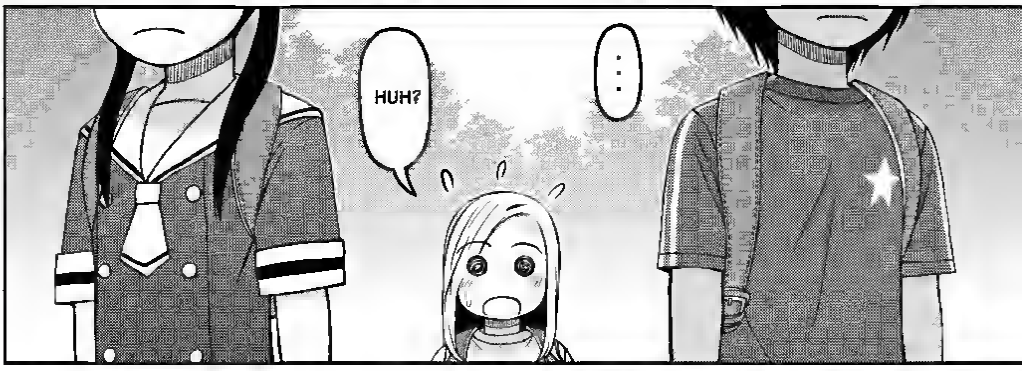

YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO...
BUY AND EAT SNACKS ON THE WAY HOME FROM SCHOOL

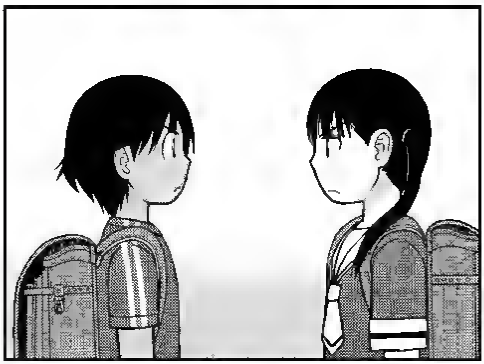
I DON'T CARE IF YOU DO IT...

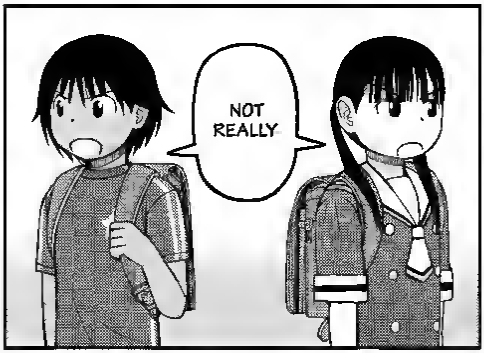
DON'T BE SO SERIOUS
KOHINATA

WRONG PATH? YOU'RE BEING OVER-DRAMATIC
BUT STOP LURING SHIMAZAKI-SAN DOWN THE WRONG PATH

MAKOTO-CHAN, YOU SHOULD WALK HOME WITH US
AND GET SOME ICE CREAM WITH US, TOO
HUH?
...
WELL...
I GUESS IF YOU SAY SO, SHIMAZAKI-SAN...
HOLD ON JUST A MINUTE.


HUH?
...




NOT REALLY

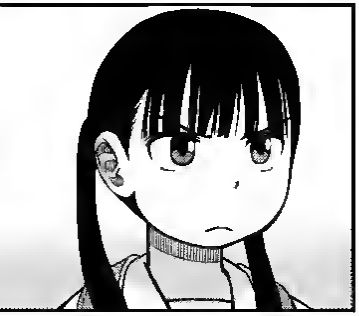
UM...
ARISA-CHAN, MAKOTO-CHAN, DO YOU NOT GET ALONG?

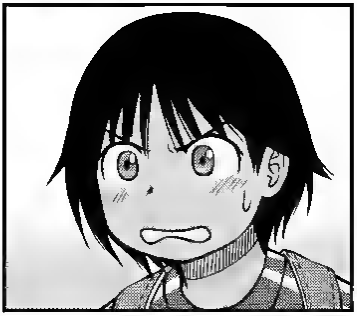
I SEE...
WELL, IF YOU PUT IT THAT WAY, THE WHOLE CLASS HAS BEEN CLASSMATES FOR A LONG TIME
YOU'VE BEEN CLASSMATES FOR A LONG TIME, RIGHT?
BUT, BUT...
SHE'S ALWAYS SUPER SERIOUS AND WON'T BUDGE AT ALL.
SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THIS.
ER...
AND YOU ALWAYS FORGET YOUR HOMEWORK.
WHAT?
IT'S JUST THAT YOU LACK COMMON SENSE
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
ACTUALLY, I WISH YOU'D ACKNOWL-EDGE THAT.
OUR CLASS IS HELD TOGETHER SO WELL BECAUSE ABE-SAN AND I ARE SO ON TOP OF THINGS.

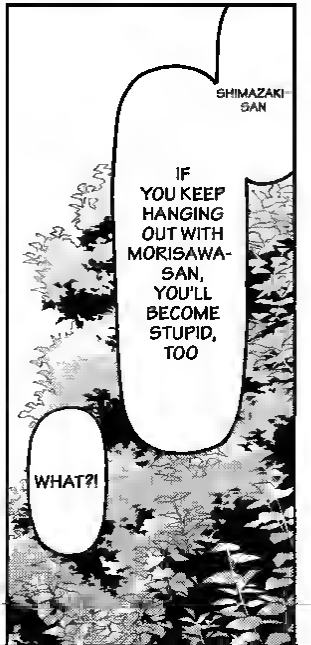
WHAT THE HECK?! I ASKED YOU TO SHOW ME WHICH ASSIGNMENTS I FORGOT THE OTHER DAY...
AND YOU WOULDN'T TELL ME ANYTHING!
WELL, YOUR FAULT FOR NOT DOING YOUR HOMEWORK
I HAVE SOMETHING ELSE I WANT TO SAY TO YOU, AS WELL.
THE OTHER DAY IN GYM CLASS WHEN WE WERE PLAYING DODGEBALL
WHA?
YOU GUYS LEFT ME BY MYSELF,
HEY, PASS IT HERE!
ヘイ パス パース
AND KEPT PASSING THE BALL BACK AND FORTH.
AND FINALLY THREW THE BALL AT ME AS HARD AS YOU COULD
BUT THOSE ARE THE RULES OF DODGEBALL!

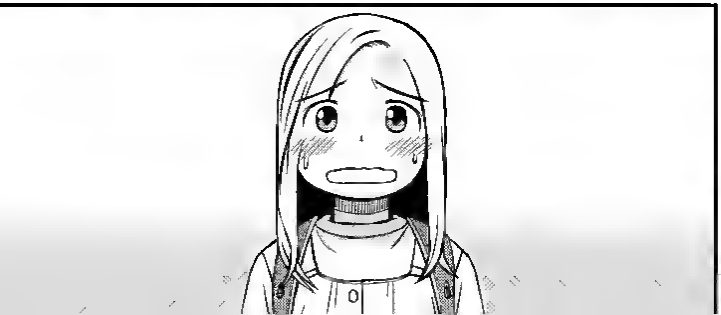
HEY, NINA!
YES?

IF YOU KEEP HANGING OUT WITH KOHINATA,
YOUR PERSONALITY WILL BECOME LAME LIKE HERS
WHAT?
HUH?






SHIMAZAKI-SAN
IF YOU KEEP HANGING OUT WITH MORISAWA-SAN, YOU'LL BECOME STUPID, TOO
WHAT?!



STOP FIGHTING!

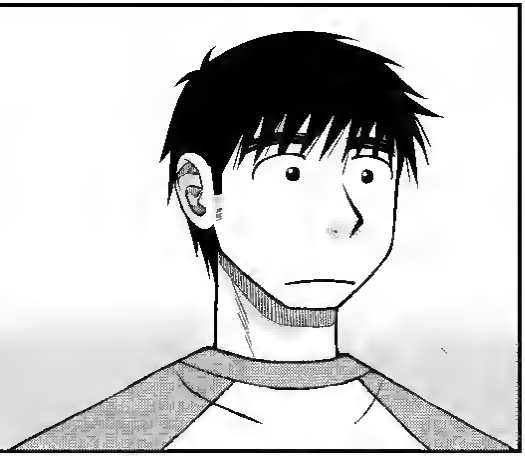
HA HA.

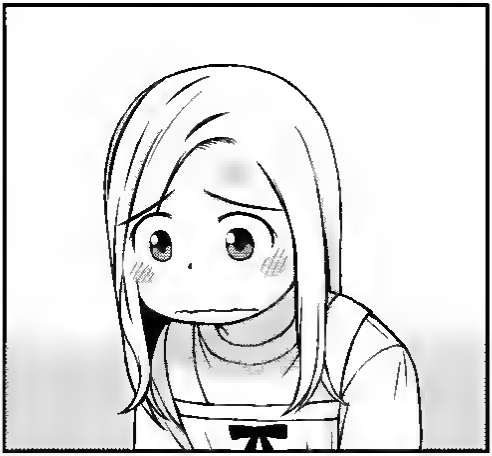
NINA IS SERIOUSLY TROUBLED ABOUT THIS!

WHAT THE HECK?
YOU'VE ALREADY GOTTEN DRAGGED IN TO GIRLS' FIGHTS IN CLASS?
JEEZ, THIS IS NOTHING TO LAUGH ABOUT!

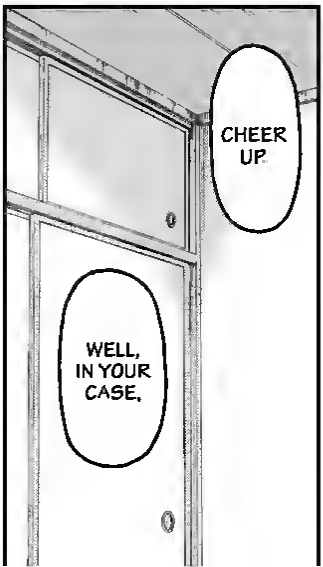
I SEE, I SEE
I'M SORRY FOR LAUGHING.

THEY'RE NINA'S NEW PRECIOUS FRIENDS
NINA WANTS TO GET ALONG WITH EVERYONE
HMM...
WELL, YEAH...



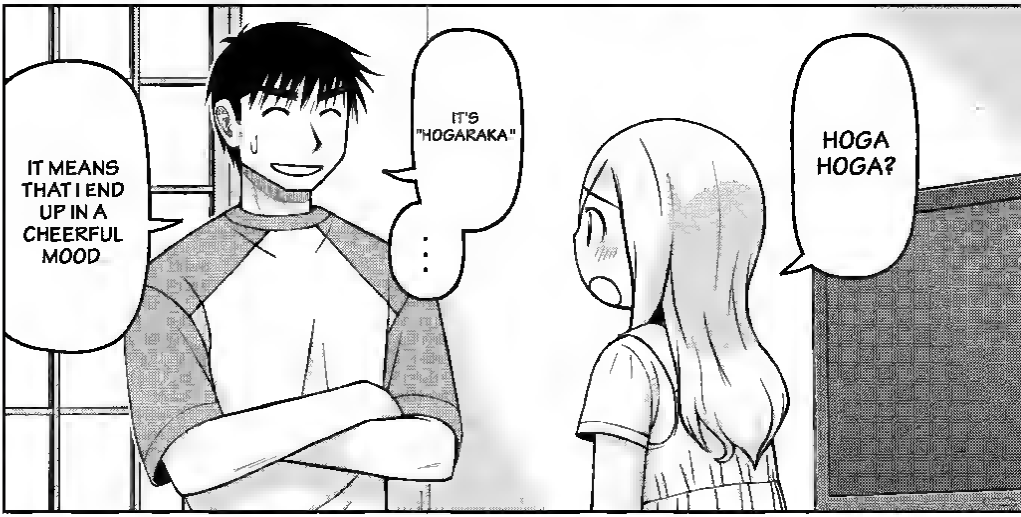


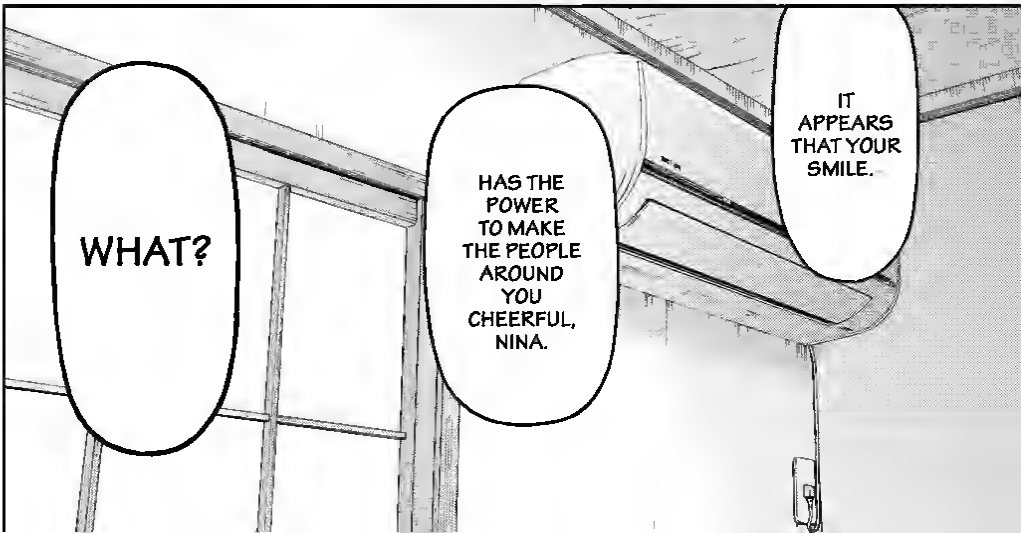
I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD DWELL ON IT TOO MUCH.
?
WHY NOT?

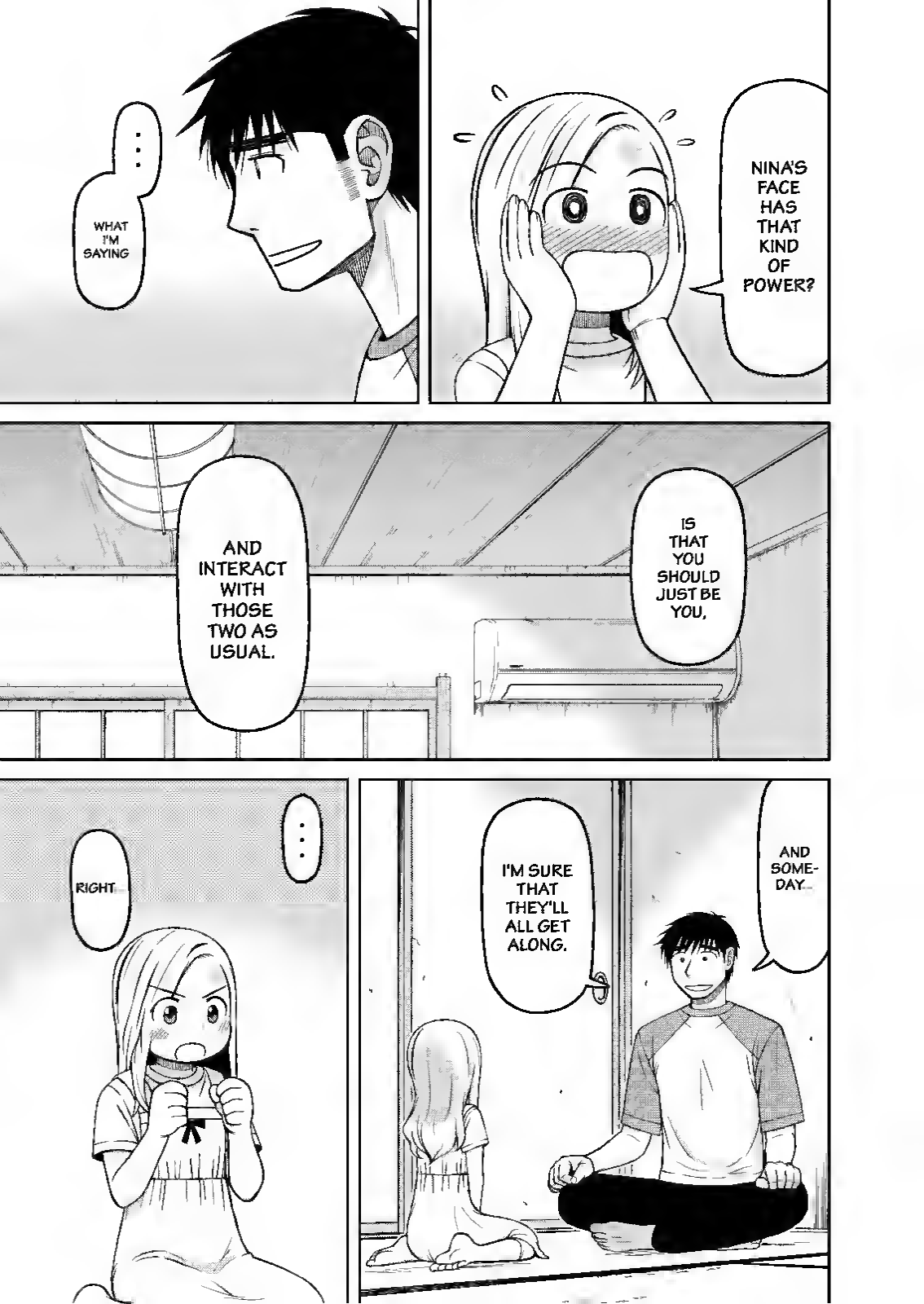

CHEER UP.
WELL, IN YOUR CASE,

ALL THE THINGS THAT MAY BE BUGGING ME DON'T MATTER ANYMORE.
IT'S CALLED BEING HOGARAKA*
I DUNNO.
WHEN I SEE YOUR SMILING FACE,
WELL I...

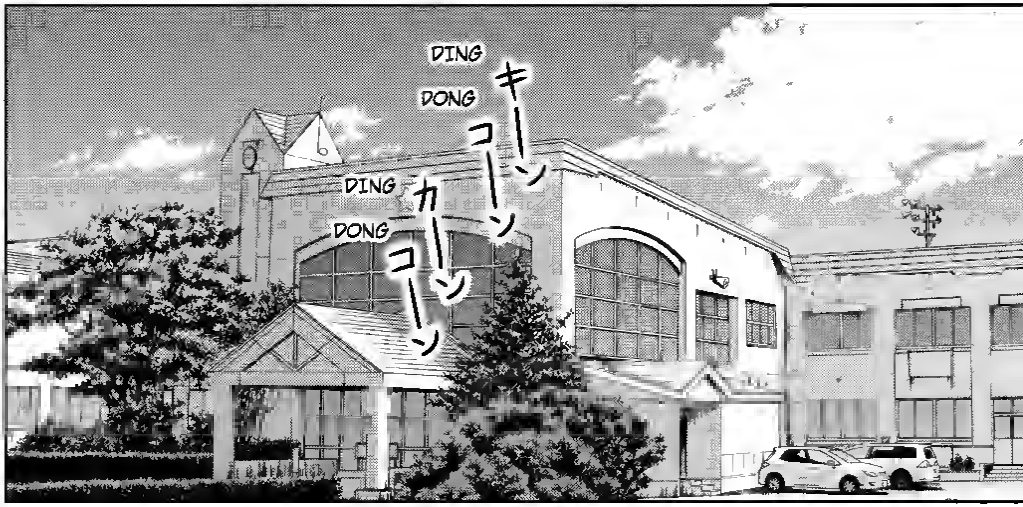
*THE ACT OF BEING CHEERED UP



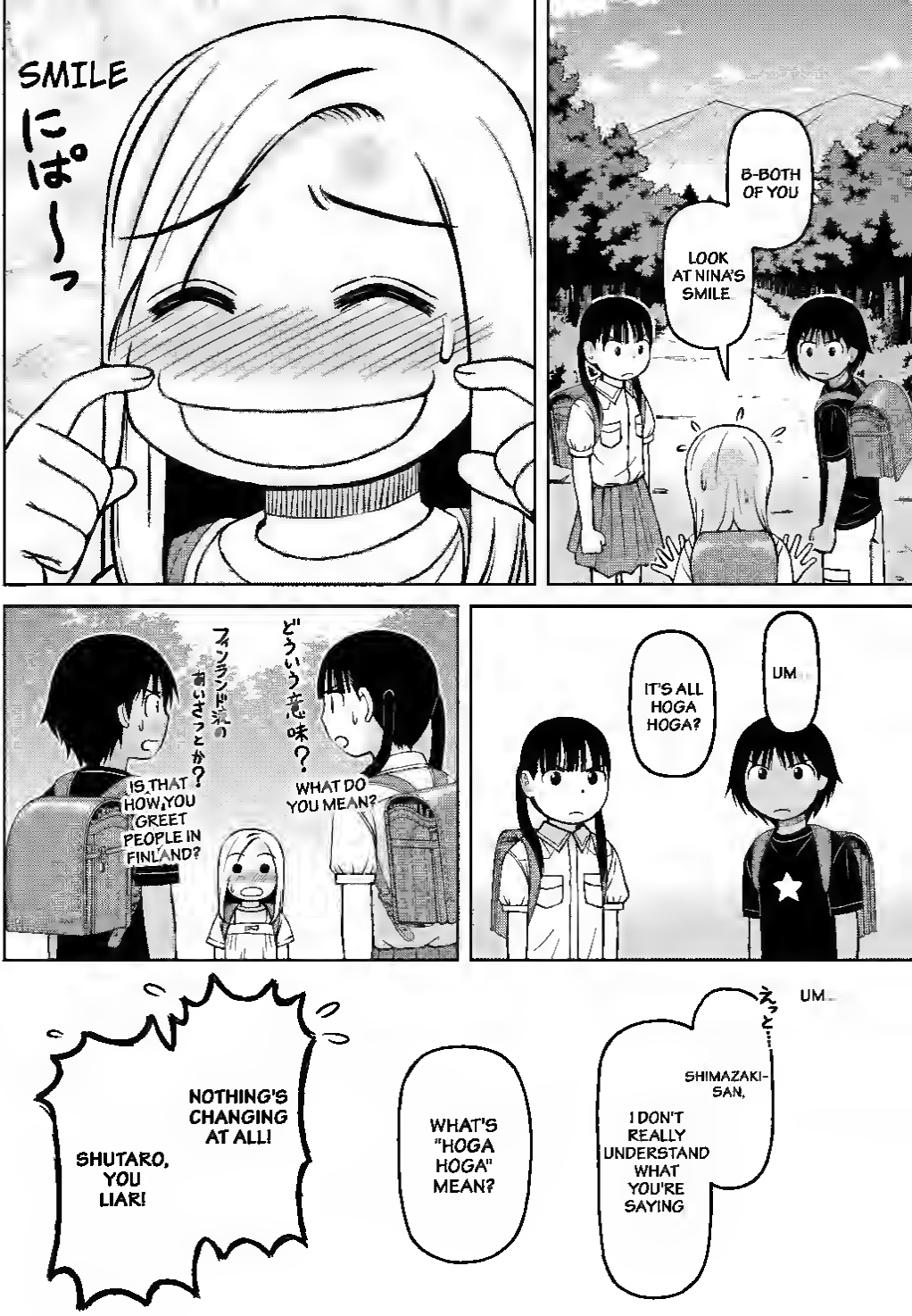




NINA'S FACE HAS THAT KIND OF POWER?
...
WHAT I'M SAYING
IS THAT YOU SHOULD JUST BE YOU,
AND INTERACT WITH THOSE TWO AS USUAL.
AND SOME-DAY...
I'M SURE THAT THEY'LL ALL GET ALONG.
...
RIGHT

NINA WILL DO HER BEST!
GOOD.


DING
DONG
キーン
コーン
DING
DONG
カーン
コーン

WHY ARE YOU FOLLOWING US?
WHY ARE YOU FOLLOWING US?
HEY,
NINA ASKED ME TO WALK HOME WITH HER THIS MORNING.
WRONG
SO YOU'RE THE ONE BUTTING IN
SHIMAZAKI-SAN INVITED ME TO WALK HOME WITH HER TODAY.
GRR
NINA,
SERIOUSLY, DON'T BE FRIENDS WITH KOHINATA.
SHIMAZAKI-SAN
PLEASE MAKE IT CLEAR RIGHT NOW IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE FRIENDS WITH ME OR MORISAWA-SAN.
WHAT?!
UH...
UM...

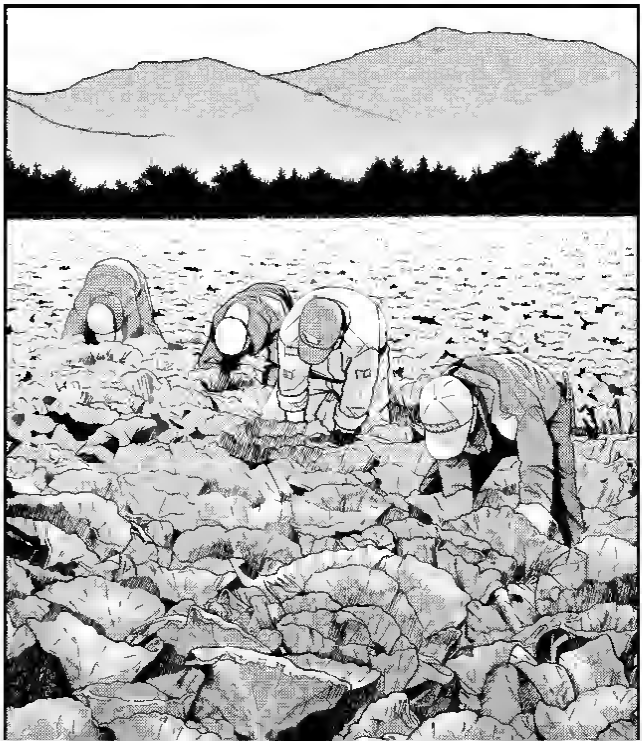

SMILE
にぱーっ
B-BOTH OF YOU
LOOK AT NINA'S SMILE
どういう意味？
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
フィンランド式のあいさつとか？
IS THAT HOW YOU GREET PEOPLE IN FINLAND?
UM...
IT'S ALL HOGA HOGA?
えっと...
UM...
SHIMAZAKI-SAN,
I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING
WHAT'S "HOGA HOGA" MEAN?
NOTHING'S CHANGING AT ALL!
SHUTARO, YOU LIAR!

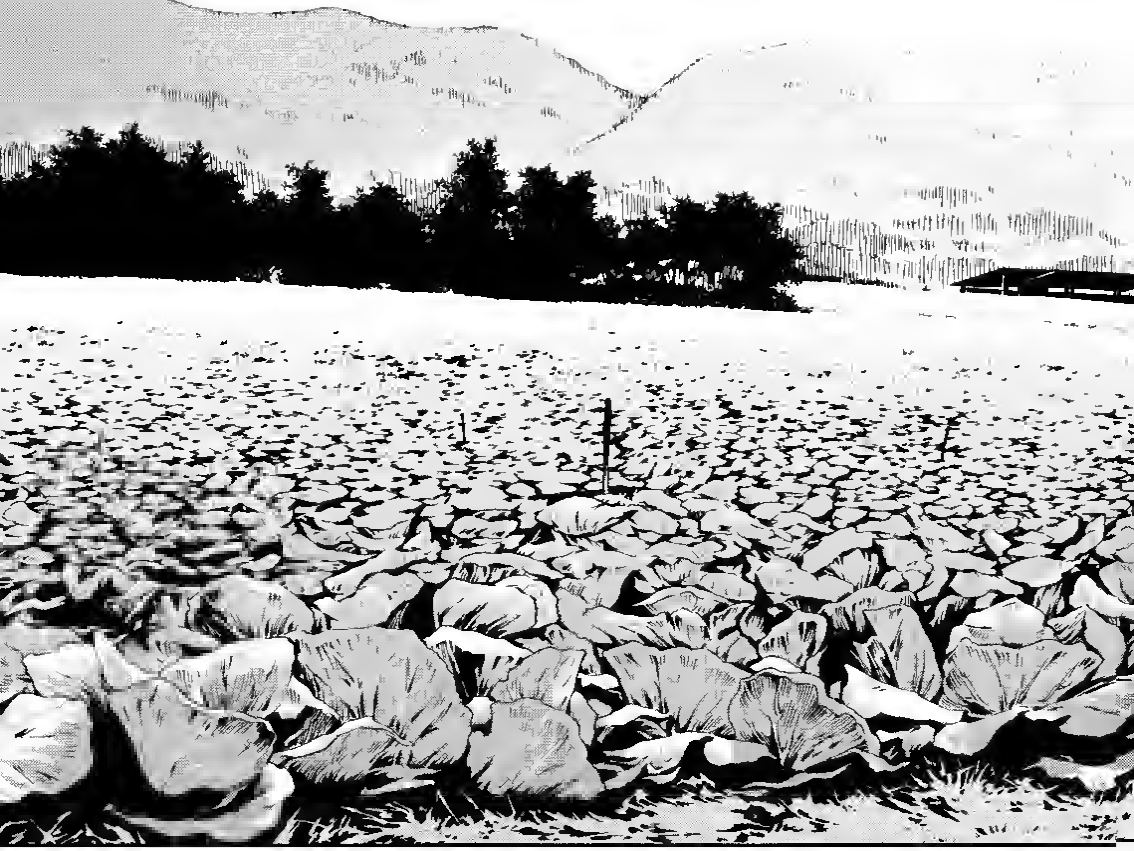
CHAPTER 31

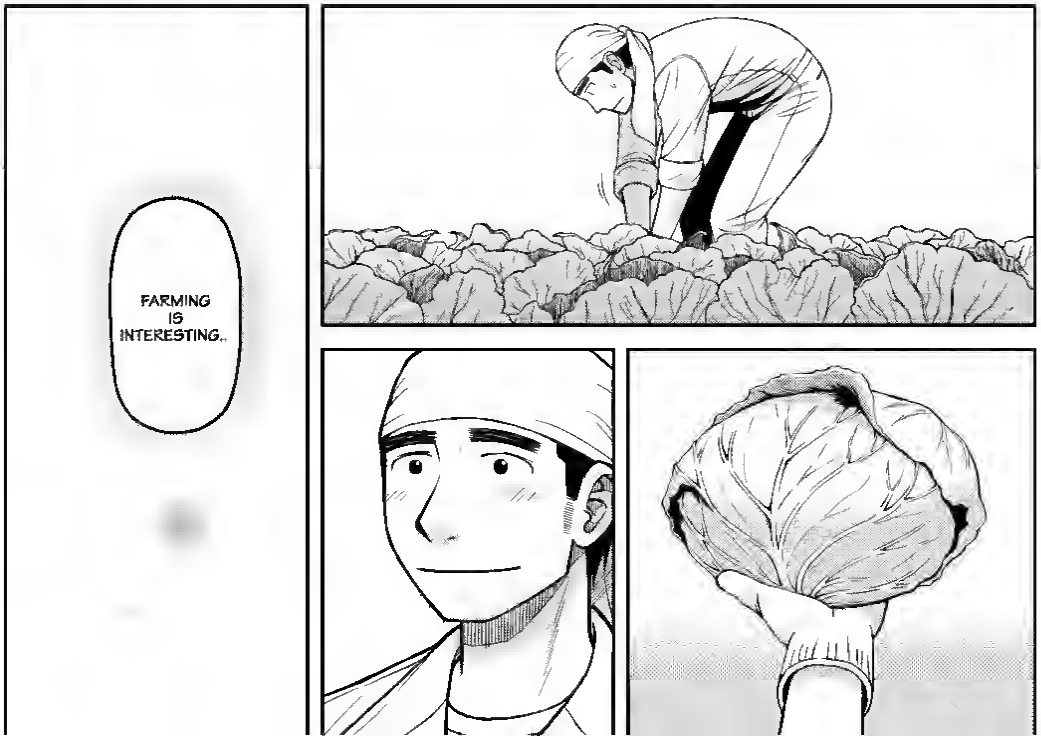
IN THE NEAR FUTURE

*INSEPARABLE FRIENDS SINCE CHILDHOOD, THEY LOOK LIKE THEY'LL CONNECT, YET THEY DON'T...*

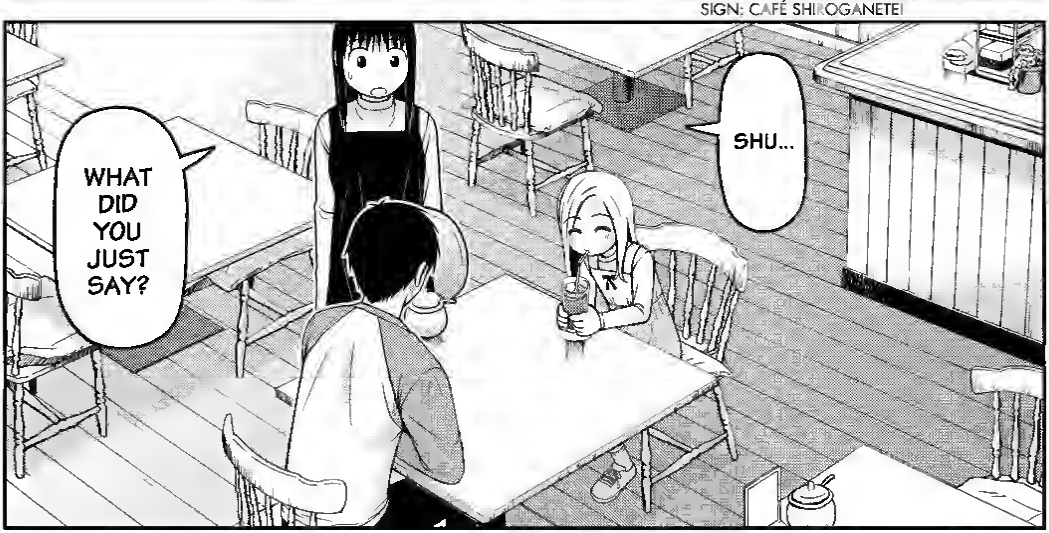
SHUTARO'S WORKING HARD AT HIS JOB HARVESTING CABBAGES. HE'S DOING PRETTY WELL!

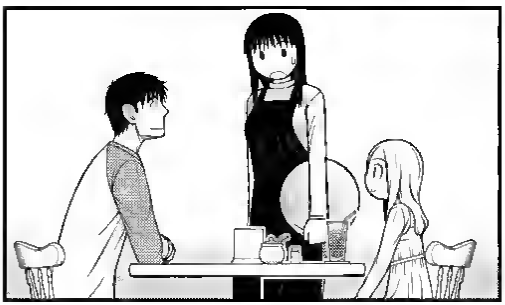


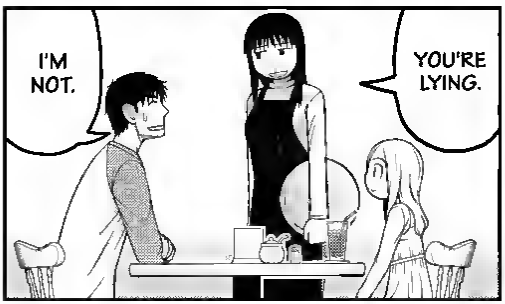



FARMING
IS
INTERESTING..

SIGN: CAFÉ SHIROGANETEI

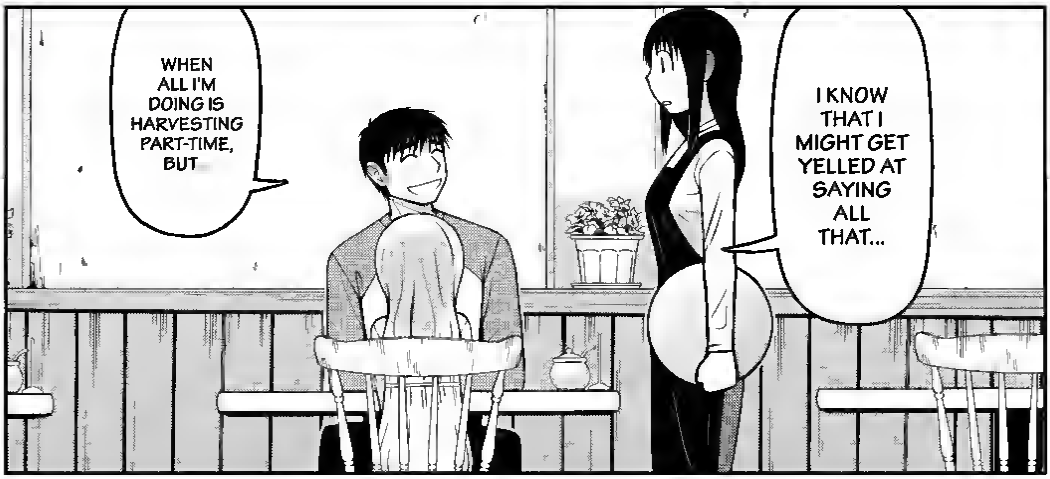


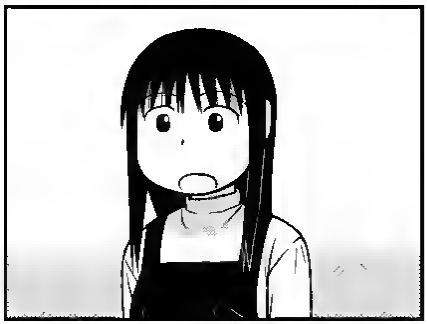


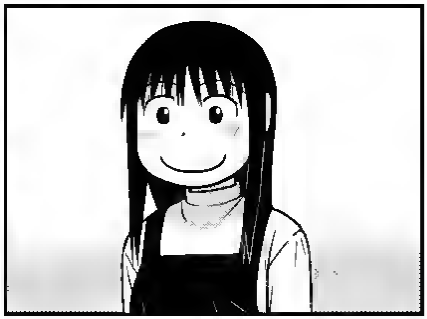
DURING MY BREAK AT WORK,
I WAS CHATTING WITH MY BOSS ABOUT ALL KINDS OF THINGS
LIKE THE TYPES OF CABBAGES,
WHEN IT'S BEST TO HARVEST THEM...
ABOUT THE SOIL FOR THE FIELDS, FERTILIZER, AND HOW MUCH WATER TO GIVE...
PESTICIDES AND SICKNESS...
OF COURSE, IT'S OBVIOUS THAT FARMING IS A VERY TOUGH JOB,
BUT...
BREATHING IN THE AIR THERE,
AND BEING SURROUNDED BY NATURE...

IT FEELS REALLY... GOOD.


WHEN ALL I'M DOING IS HARVESTING PART-TIME, BUT
I KNOW THAT I MIGHT GET YELLED AT SAYING ALL THAT...

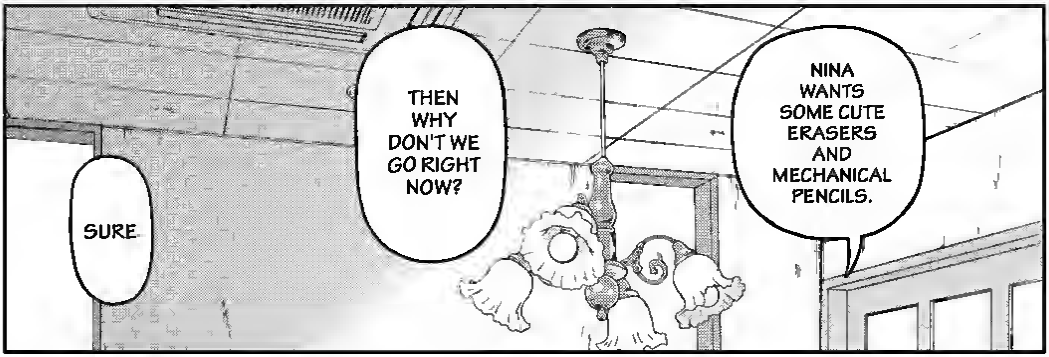
SO YOU FINALLY UNDERSTAND THE GREATNESS OF FARMING
I SEE, I SEE.
PAT
ポン
YEAH

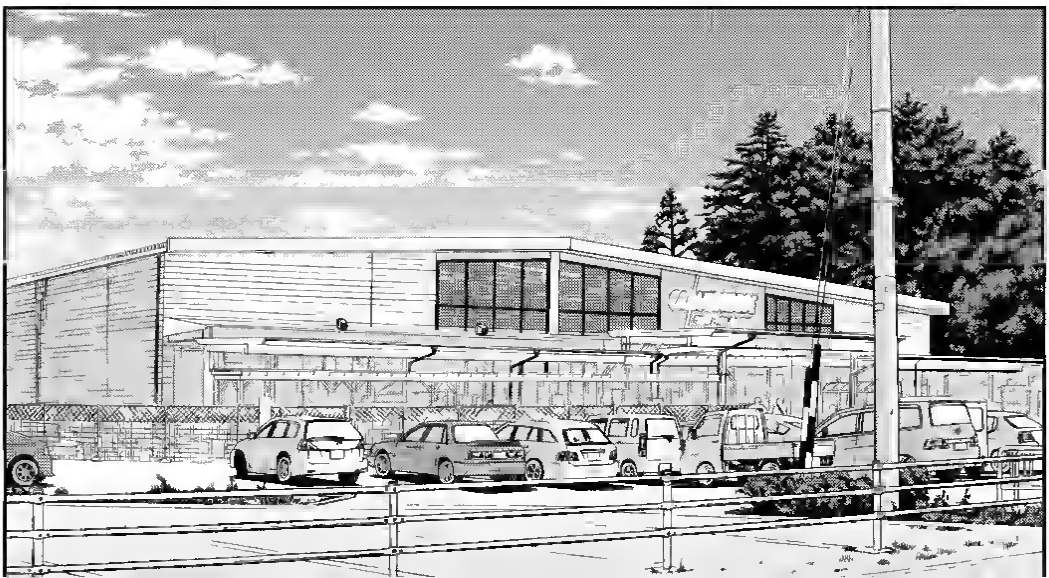




HUH?
WELL, YEAH.
REALLY?
YOU SEEM REALLY HAPPY, TOMOE.
OUT OF MIND?
I MEAN, EVER SINCE YOU WERE A KID,
THE IDEA OF HAVING A JOB HAS BEEN SOMETHING THAT IS TOTALLY OUT OF YOUR MIND
THAT'S SO OLD-FASHIONED
HOME CENTER?
WHY DON'T WE HEAD TO THE HOME CENTER?
I KNOW.
I'M TOUCHED
SIGH...
はぁぁぁ…
SHU FINALLY CHANGED
DON'T CRY
泣くなぁ…

NINA WANTS TO GO TO THE HOME CENTER, TOO!
HUH, THAT'LL BE INTERESTING.
I'LL GIVE YOU ADVICE ABOUT FARMING APPAREL.
THERE'S SOME REALLY GOOD STUFF.

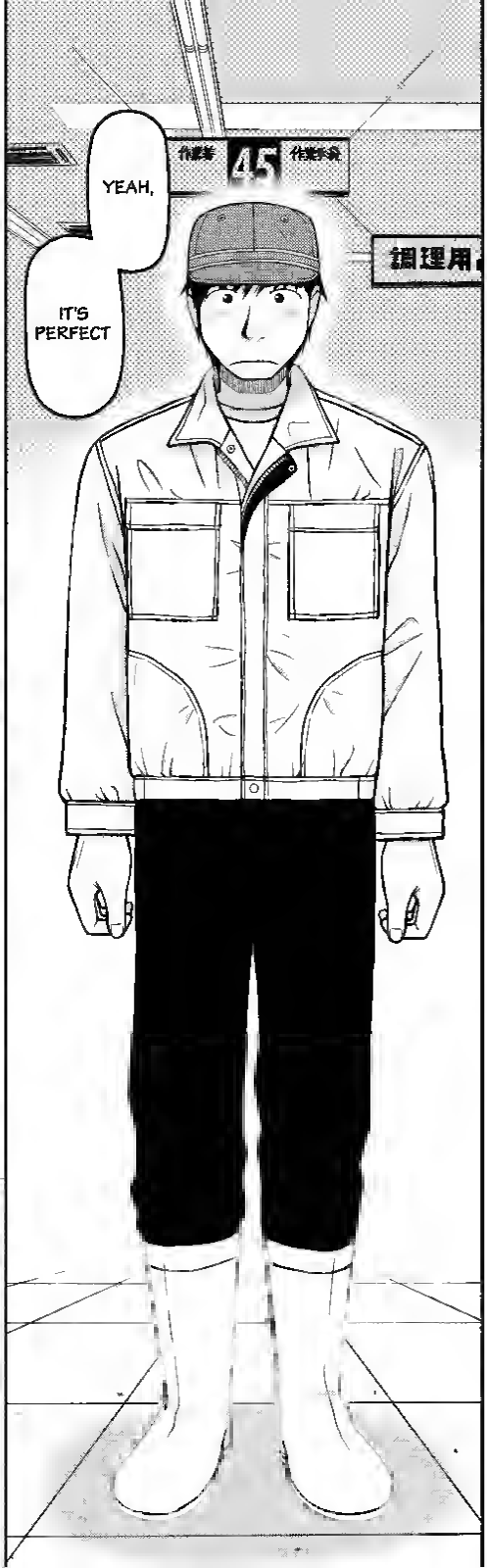

SURE.
THEN WHY DON'T WE GO RIGHT NOW?
NINA WANTS SOME CUTE ERASERS AND MECHANICAL PENCILS.



SHUTARO, YOU LOOK SO COOL!
LOOKIN' GOOD, SHUTARO.
R-30

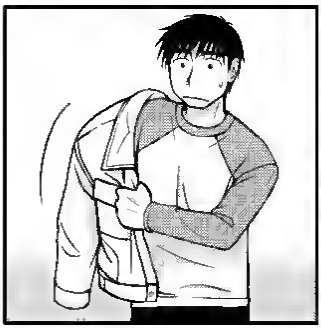
TH-THANKS.

BUT THIS IS TOO MUCH OF THE REAL DEAL...
I'M JUST A PART-TIMER.
THAT'S NOT TRUE


作業着
45
作業衣
調理用
YEAH,
IT'S PERFECT

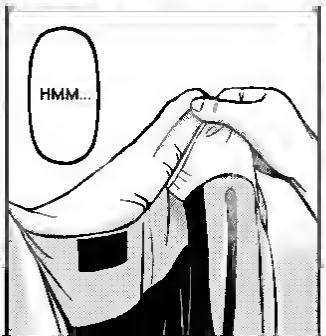
OH, I GET IT.
SO YOU'LL NEED SOMETHING HEAVIER TO WEAR.
IT'S GONNA START GETTING REALLY COLD OUT IN THE CABBAGE FIELDS,
SIGN: WORK GLOVES
SIGN: WORK CLOTHES

作業手袋
45
作業着
WHO ARE YOU CALLING A BIRD?
誰が馬子だ
HOLD ON...
"FINE FEATHERS MAKE FINE BIRDS,"
RIGHT?
THIS IS WHAT THEY MEAN BY THE PHRASE



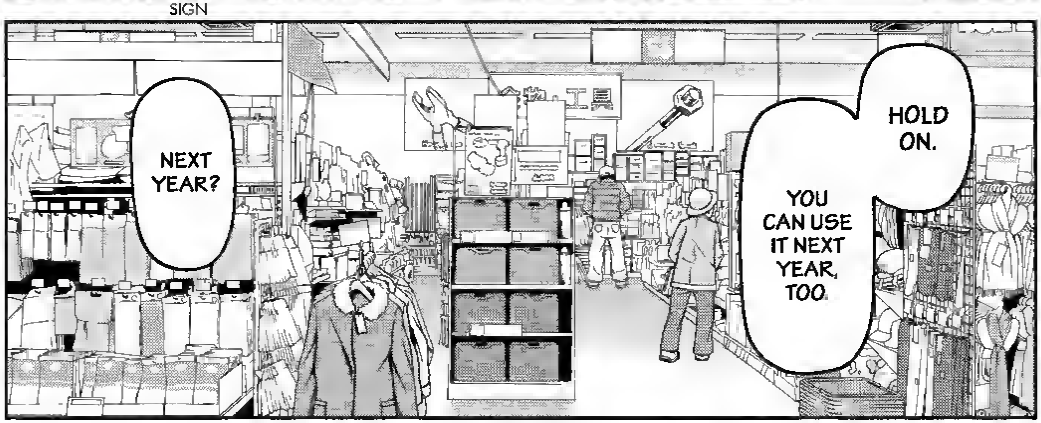
DON'T MAKE FUN OF IT BY CALLING IT A STOMACH BAND
IT REALLY IS WARM
HUH.

ALSO, WHEN YOUR LOWER BACK GETS COLD, YOU SHOULD WEAR THE BODY WARMER MADE BY THIS COMPANY.
YOU SAY BODY WARMER, BUT THAT'S JUST A STOMACH BAND, ISN'T IT?


HMM...

MY JOB HARVESTING CABBAGES WILL END IN OCTOBER...
SO I PROBABLY WON'T HAVE TO BUY THIS.
HUH?

SIGN

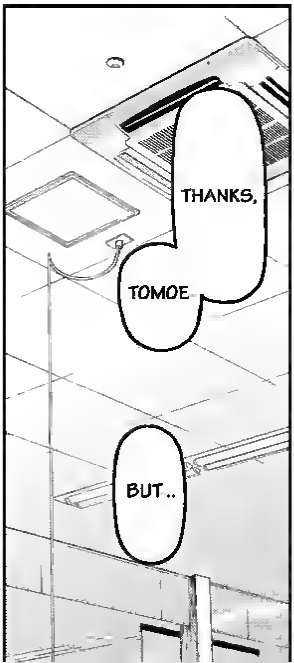

HOLD ON.
YOU CAN USE IT NEXT YEAR, TOO.
NEXT YEAR?

IF YOU'RE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING FARMING,
NEXT YEAR.
WHY DON'T YOU WORK IN OUR FIELD?
YOUR FIELD?
...
SAY...

NOT JUST OURING HARVESTING SEASON, BUT AS AN ACTUAL JOB STARTING IN APRIL
I'LL ASK MY DAD
IF YOU CAN WORK AT OUR PLACE NEXT YEAR
IF YOU WORK AT OUR PLACE...
THEN UM...
NOT BAD, RIGHT?
AND NOT JUST PART-TIME, BUT AS A FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE.

AND THEN...
WE CAN...

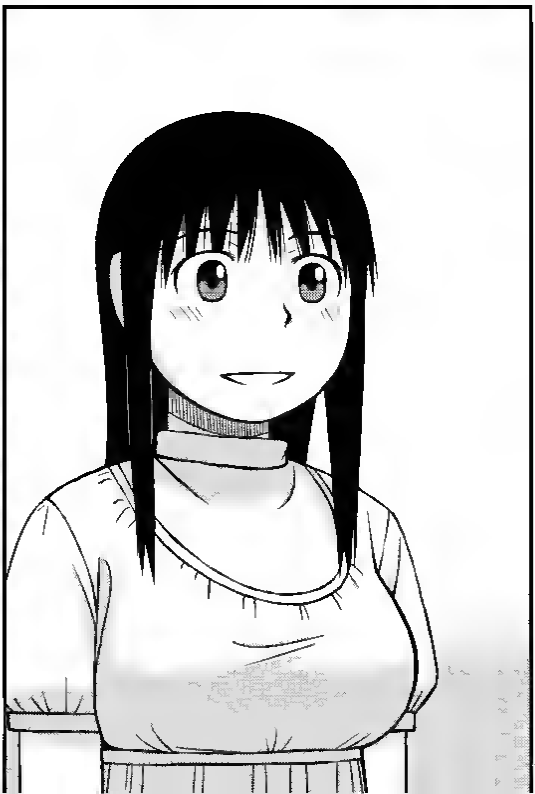
HUH...
WAIT...
WHAT AM I...
SAYING...
UM...


THANKS, TOMOE
BUT..

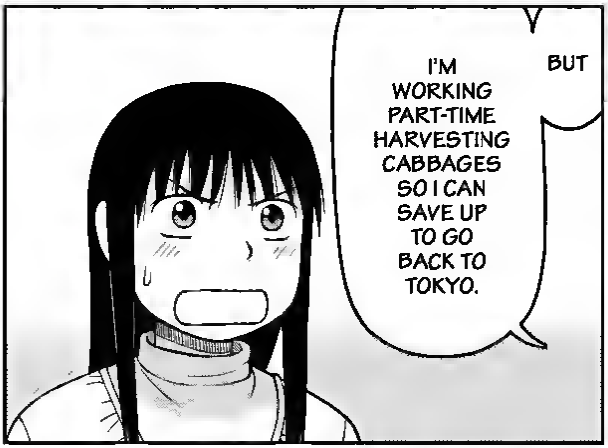
I'M ASKING HIM OUT...?
DOES THIS MEAN...

TO GO BACK TO TOKYO.
I'M PLANNING
1,480
1,980

WHA?



OH...
THE WHOLE FARMING IS GREAT...
THING?!
THEN WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?!
HUH?
WHA?!

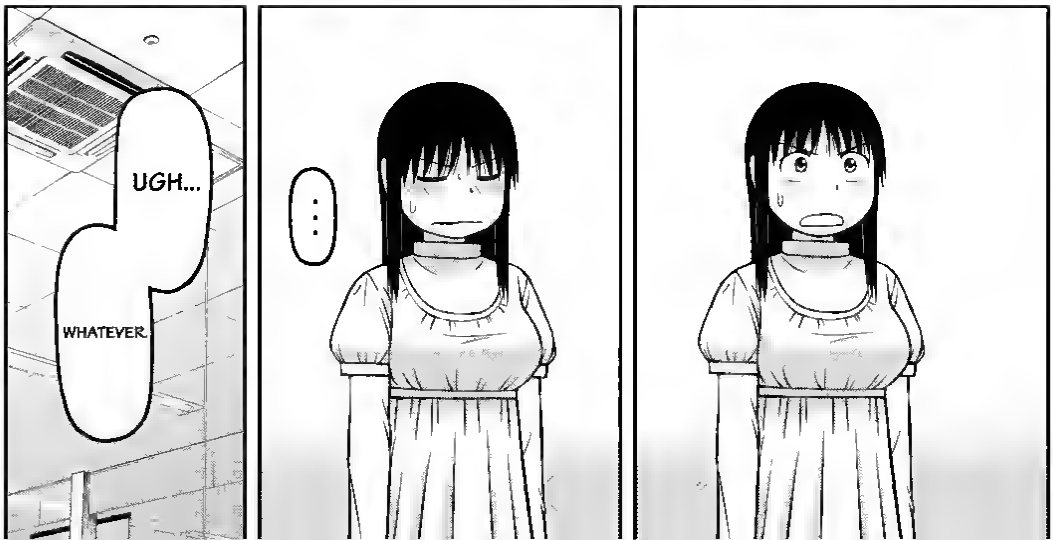

BUT
I'M WORKING PART-TIME HARVESTING CABBAGES SO I CAN SAVE UP TO GO BACK TO TOKYO.

OF COURSE.
I REALLY MEAN IT

WANT TO WORK IN TOKYO AGAIN, AFTER ALL.
I...

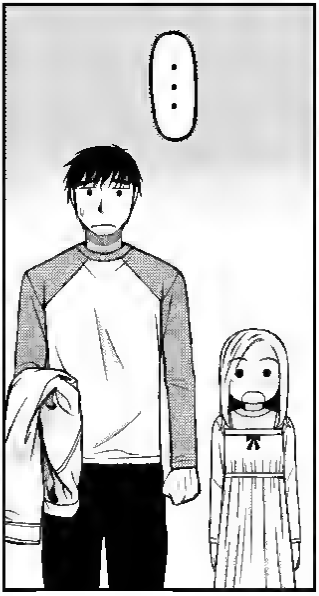
NINA WANTS TO GO TO TOKYO, TOO!
AND THEN NINA'S GONNA BECOME A AKIBA IDOL!
WE'LL TALK ABOUT THAT ANOTHER TIME...

WHEN YOU GO TO TOKYO, SHUTARO,
NINA WILL COME WITH YOU.
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS.
無茶言うな

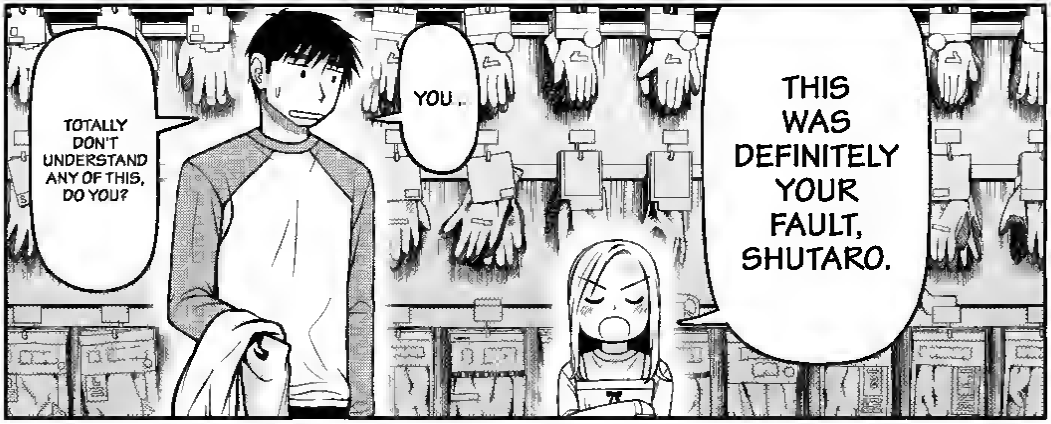

UGH...
WHATEVER.
...

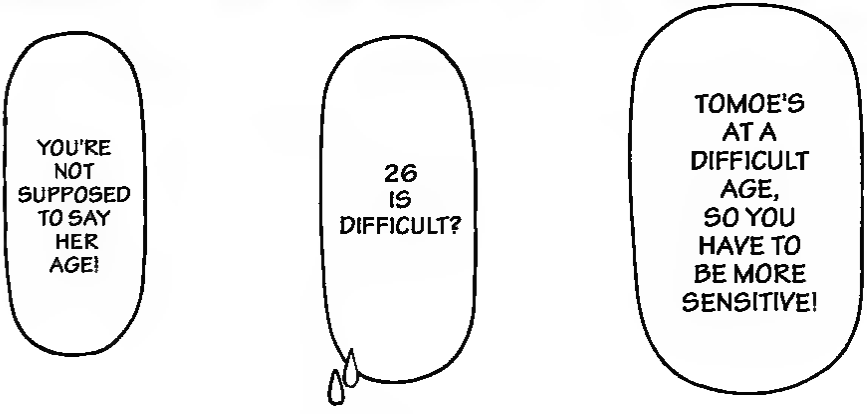
UM...
I'M SORRY FOR MAKING YOU GO THROUGH ALL THIS, TOMOE.
SERIOUSLY.
I WAS STUPID TO GET MY HOPES UP.

I'M GOING TO THE RESTROOM.
UH...


...

TOMOE WAS REALLY MAD.
Y-
YEAH

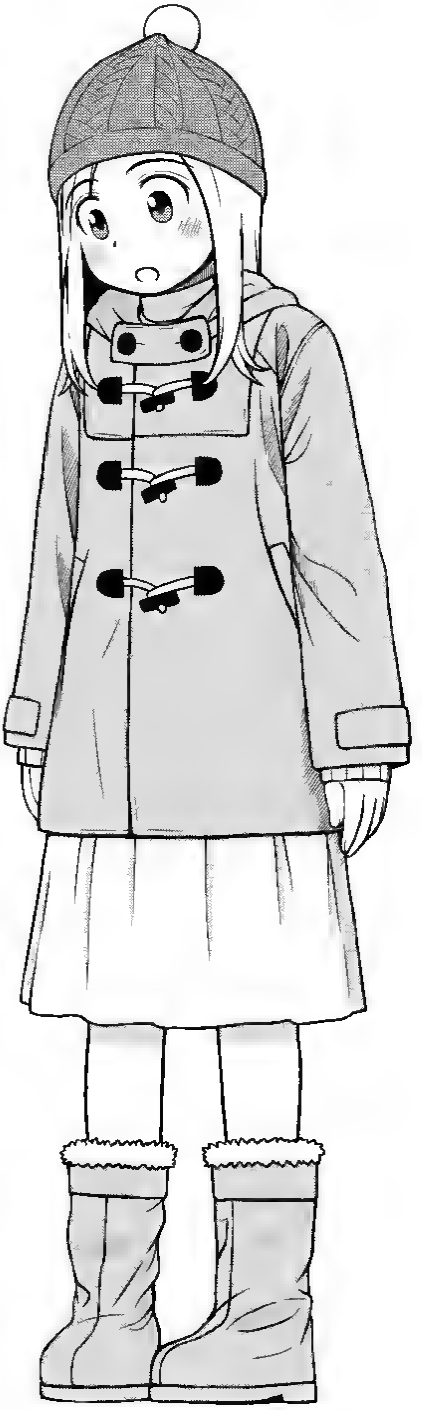



*THIS WAS A BIT DIFFICULT FOR NINA TO UNDERSTAND, IT SEEMS...*

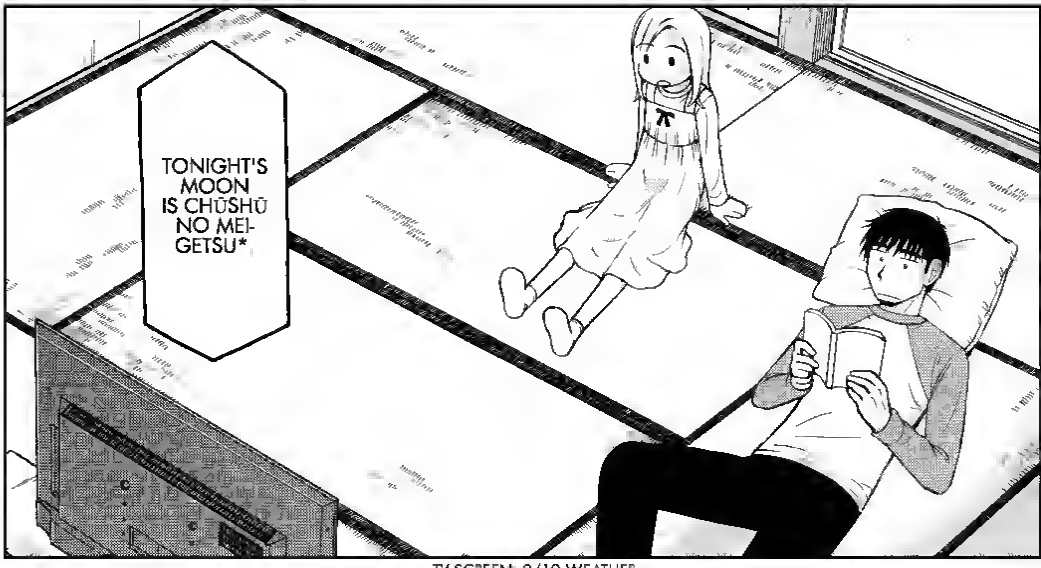
CHAPTER 32

# MOON VIEWING

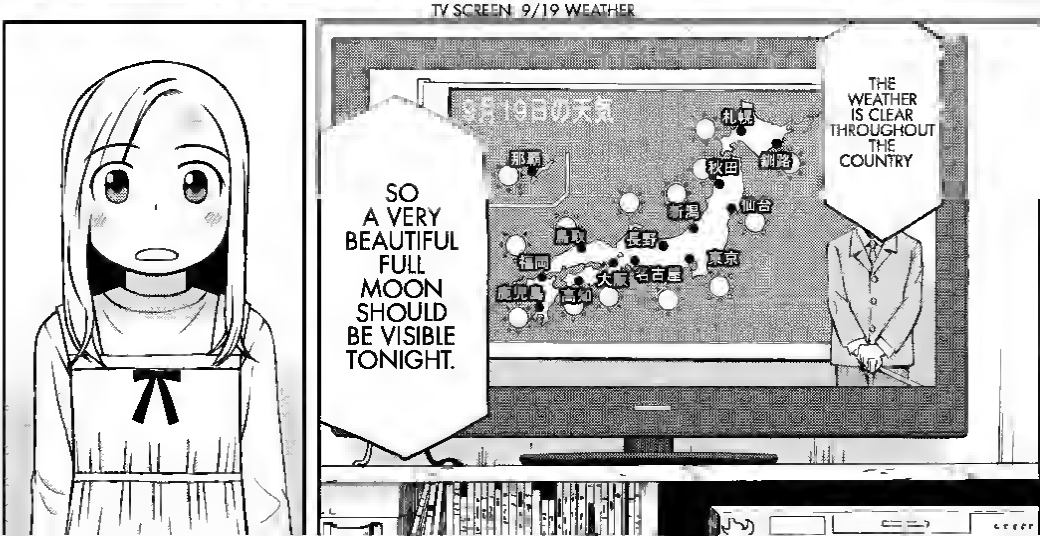


*IS WHAT HER EYES SEE A RABBIT OR...*

* THE HARVEST MOON.

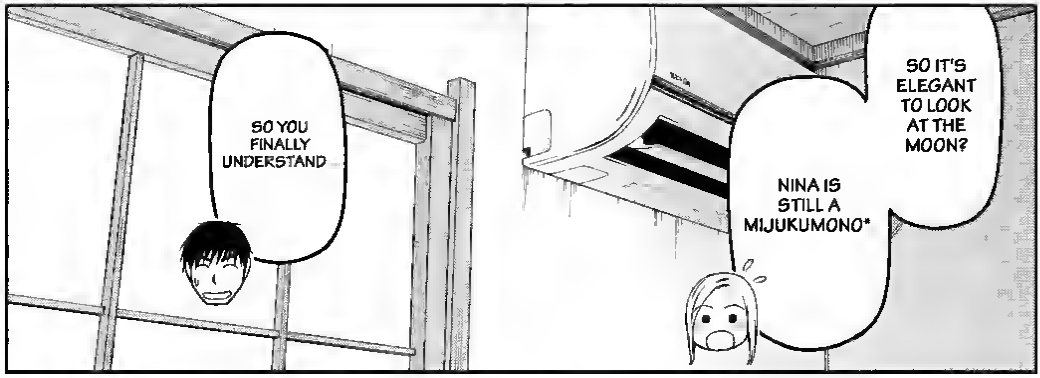



TV SCREEN: 9/19 WEATHER

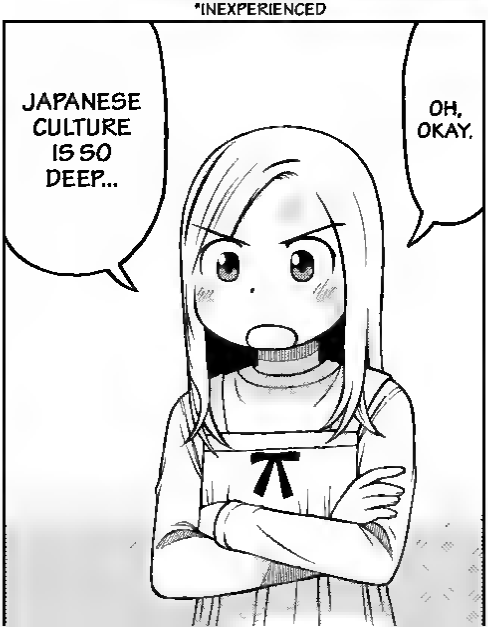


WHAT'S CHASHŪ NO MEIGETSU?
HM?
HEY, SHUTARO.
CHŪSHŪ?
IT'S NOT CHASHŪ,
IT'S CHŪSHŪ
IN THE FALL, WHEN THE SKY GETS CLEAR, EVERYONE TRIES TO SEE THE MOON
IT'S A JAPANESE CUSTOM
UM...
JUGOYA IS
CHŪSHŪ NO MEIGETSU IS WELL JUGOYA
JUGOYA?

YEAH.
YOU LOOK AT THE MOON?
IT'S NOT REALLY WEIRD.
WEIRD.
YOU JUST LOOK AT IT?
WELL...
YEAH, I GUESS THAT'S BASICALLY IT
...
YOU GO TO SEE AURORAS IN FINLAND, DON'T YOU?
YEAH, BUT...
BUT YOU CAN SEE THE MOON EVERY DAY
IT'S NOT RARE OR ANYTHING
WELL, UM...

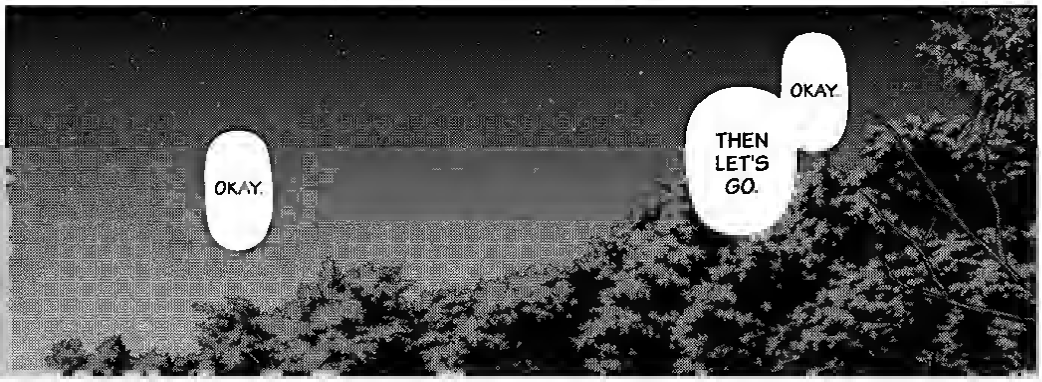



*INEXPERIENCED



THEN, AFTER WE FINISH DINNER,
LET'S GO LOOK AT THE MOON
OKAY
WOOSH
サアアアアアア…
CLACK
ガチャッ
WHOA

NINA'S FINE
NINA'S NOT COLD.
NINA,
ARE YOU WARM ENOUGH?
IT'S ALREADY PRETTY COLD AT NIGHT.
I'D EXPECT NOTHING LESS FROM KITA-KARUIZAWA


OKAY.
THEN LET'S GO.
OKAY.

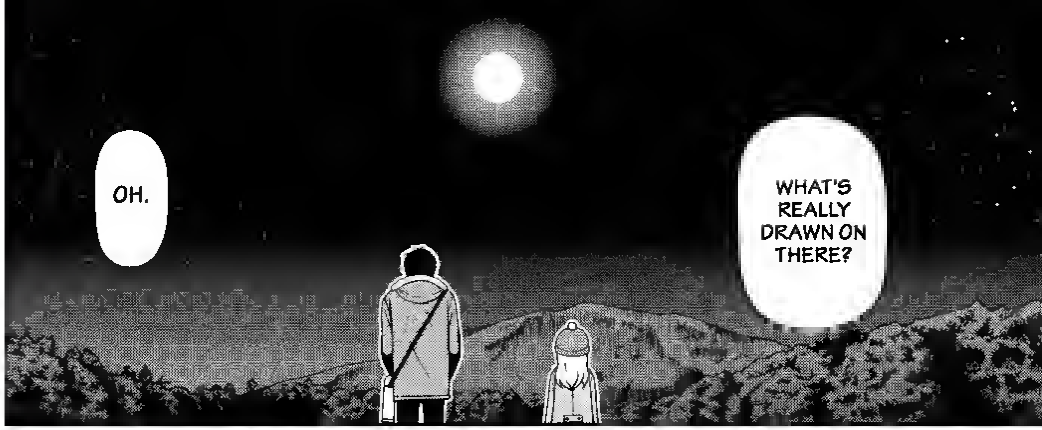
OKAY, WE'RE HERE.
WHERE ARE WE GOING TO LOOK AT IT?
IN THE FIELD UP AHEAD.

WOW!

IT'S BRIGHT
IT'S ROUND.
IT'S BIG.
HAHA
はは
YEAH.

THIS MAY BE
THE FIRST TIME NINA'S SEEN SUCH A PRETTY MOON.
SHUTARO
YEAH.
TO STOP AND TO LOOK UP AT THE MOON, HUH?
IT'S NOT BAD TO TAKE A MOMENT ONCE IN A WHILE
I SEE.
...

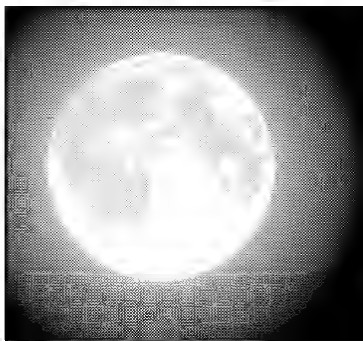
DOESN'T IT LOOK LIKE SOMETHING'S DRAWN ON THE SURFACE OF THE MOON?
WHAT?
THE PATTERN ON THE MOON?
WHAT DOES THE PATTERN ON THE MOON LOOK LIKE TO YOU?
OH, YEAH...
YOU ARE YOU HUNGRY?
CURRY RICE, MAYBE?
HMM...
I GUESS IT MIGHT ACTUALLY LOOK LIKE CURRY RICE
YOU'RE PRETTY AMAZING
TE HE HE
WELL, WAIT...
...


OH.
WHAT'S REALLY DRAWN ON THERE?

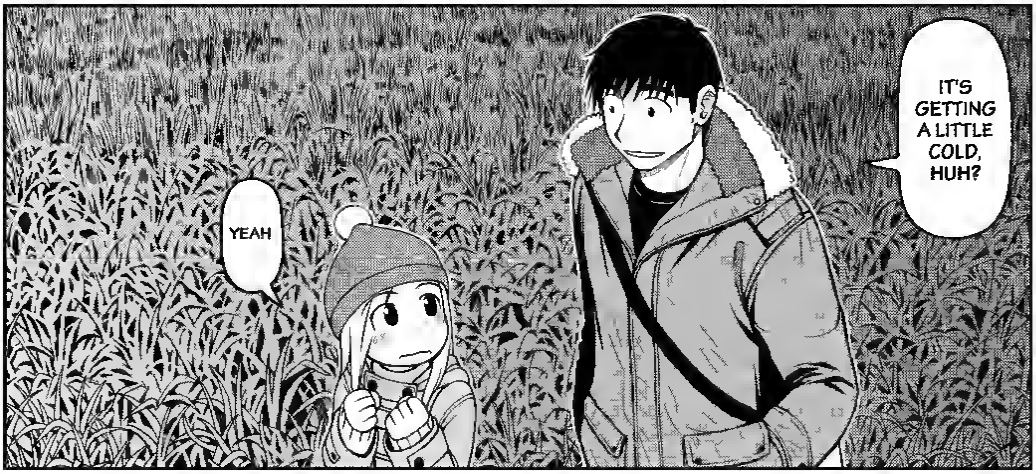
RABBITS?
JAPAN'S ALWAYS SAID IT LOOKS LIKE...
RABBITS MAKING MOCHI.
WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE IS DIFFERENT DEPENDING ON WHICH COUNTRY YOU'RE IN.

DEPENDING ON THE PLACE, THEY SAY A CRAB...
OR EVEN A WOMAN SMILING.
HUH...

YEAH...
NINA DOESN'T SEE THAT AT ALL.

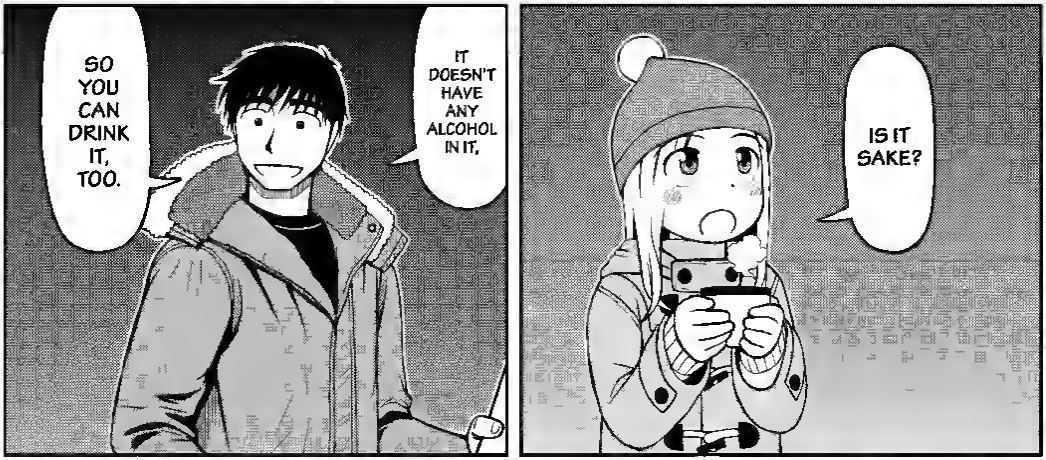


!
WOOSH
アアアア
YOU'VE GOT THE ROUND PLATE RIGHT.
BUT...
YOUR CURRY RICE MIGHT BE THE MOST ACCURATE.

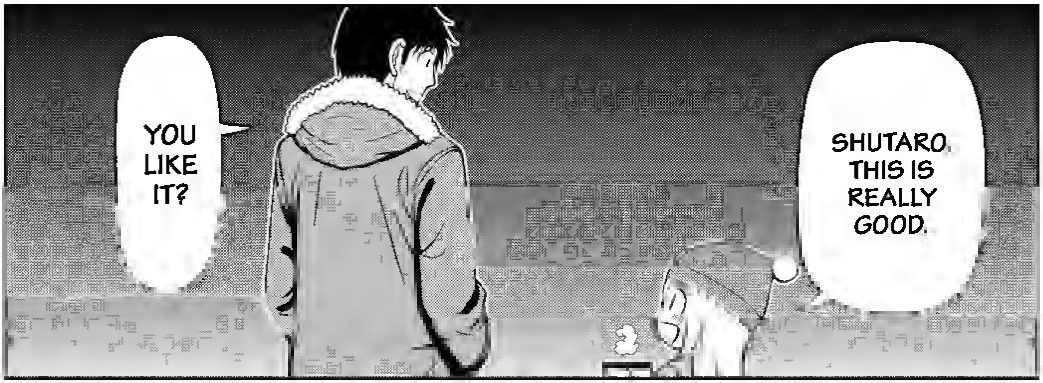

YEAH
IT'S GETTING A LITTLE COLD, HUH?

POUR じょぼ
POUR じょぼ
JUST ONE SEC.

*A SWEET, FERMENTED RICE DRINK.



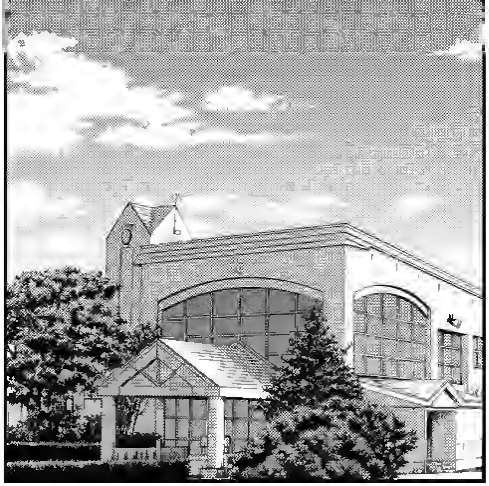
SO GOOD...

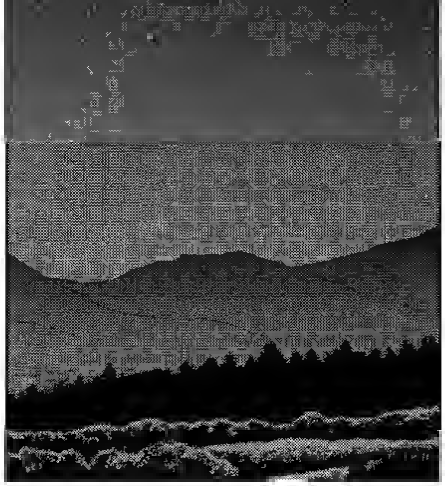

YOU LIKE IT?
SHUTARO, THIS IS REALLY GOOD.

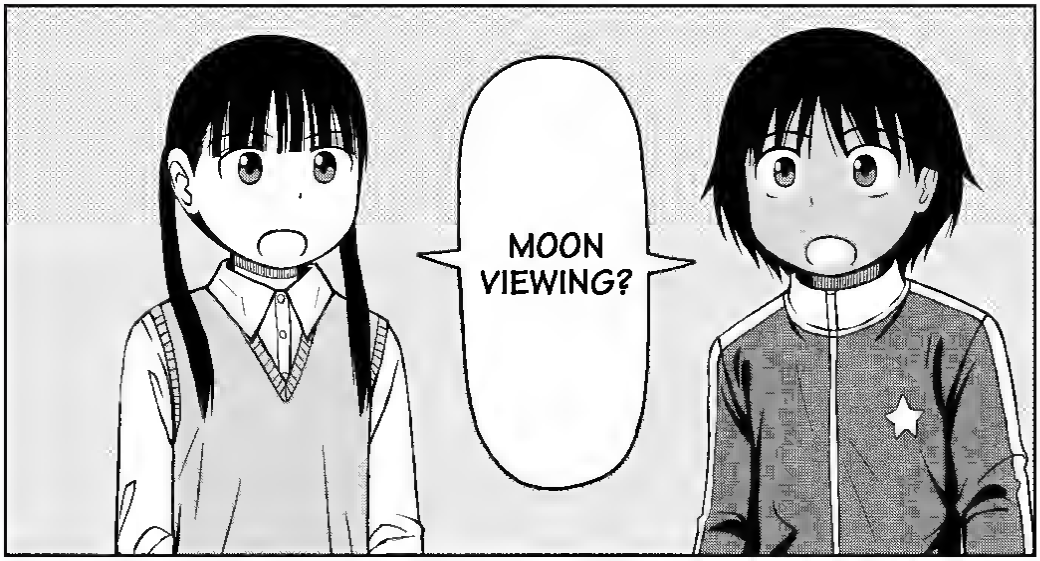
AND TO LOOK UP AT THE MOON?
ON COLD NIGHTS LIKE THIS, ISN'T IT GREAT TO DRINK WARM AMAZAKE,
YEAH.

YEAH.
IT'S SWEET, THICK, AND SMELLS REALLY GOOD.
MY BODY'S GETTING REALLY WARM, TOO.
THAT'S GOOD.

WELL,
THIS IS PRETTY MUCH
ELEGANT
ELEGANCE IS GREAT, HUH?
ISN'T IT?
OH, HUH...
SHUTARO

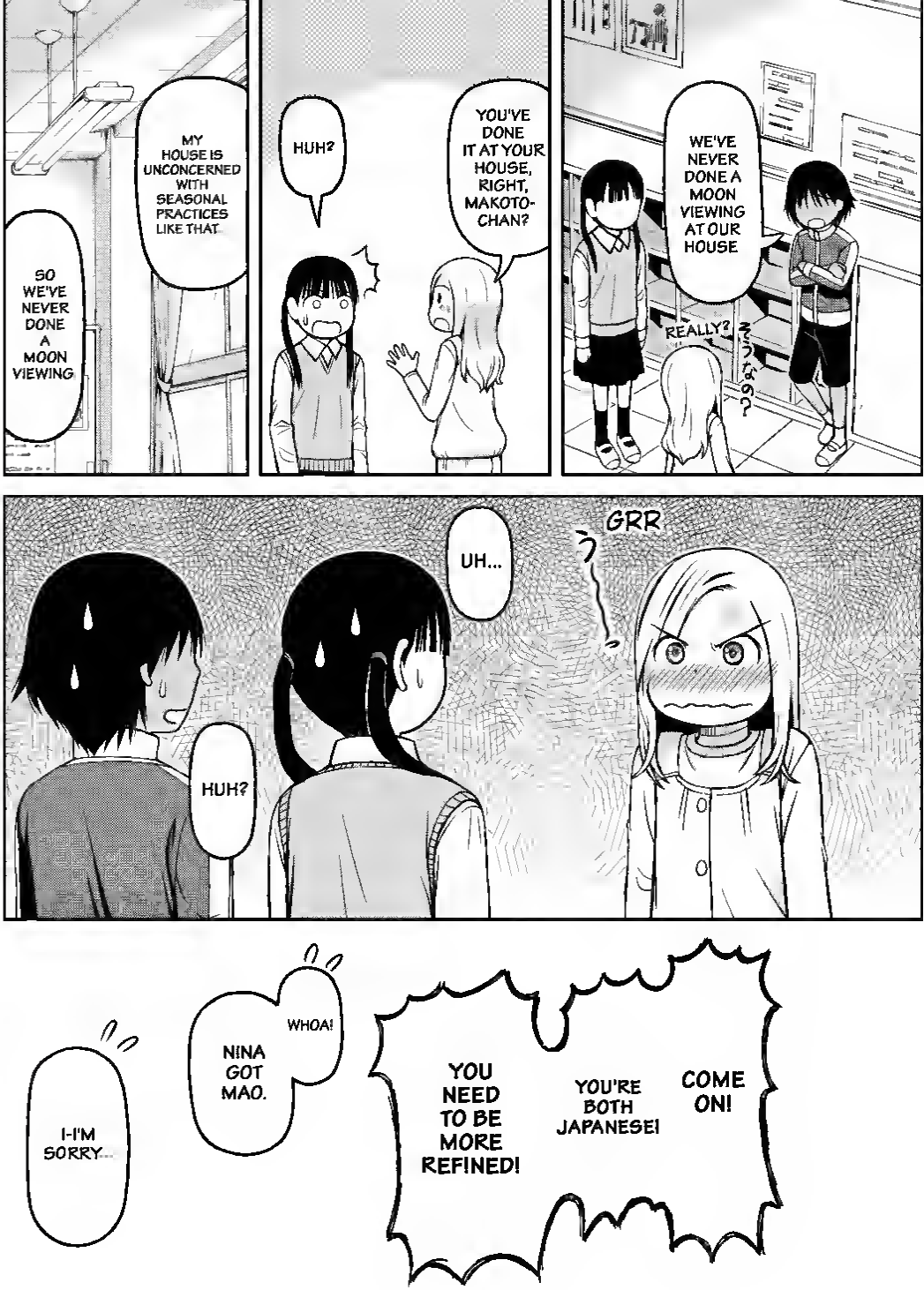





MOON VIEWING?

WHAT'S SO FUN ABOUT STARING AT THE MOON?
HUH?

YEP.
THE MOON WAS REALLY PRETTY LAST NIGHT.
...


MY HOUSE IS UNCONCERNED WITH SEASONAL PRACTICES LIKE THAT.
SO WE'VE NEVER DONE A MOON VIEWING
HUH?
YOU'VE DONE IT AT YOUR HOUSE, RIGHT, MAKOTO-CHAN?
WE'VE NEVER DONE A MOON VIEWING AT OUR HOUSE
REALLY?
そうなの?
UH...
GRR
HUH?
I-I'M SORRY...
NINA GOT MAD.
WHOA!
YOU NEED TO BE MORE REFINED!
YOU'RE BOTH JAPANESE!
COME ON!

NINA CONNECTS HER CIRCLE OF CLASSMATES

# 銀のニーナ

(しろがね)

Silver Nina

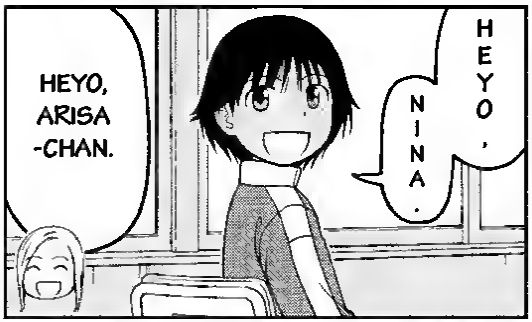
CHAPTER 33. MAKING BEAUTIFUL CONTRAST

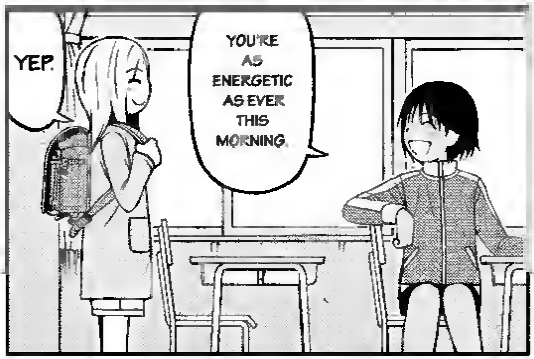
イトカツ

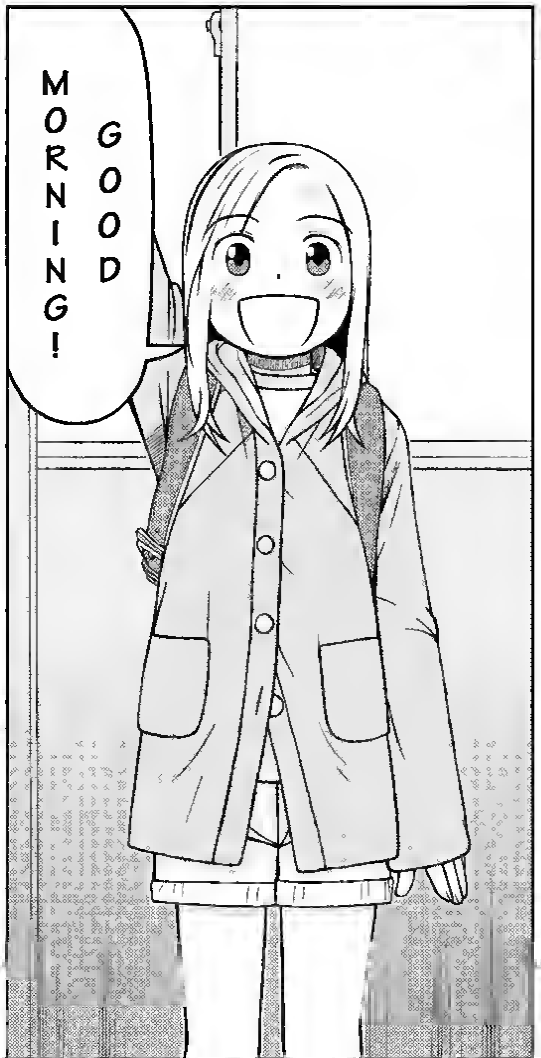
Presented by ITOKATSU

TODAY'S ANOTHER FUN DAY AT SCHOOL. LET'S CHEERFULLY GIVE EVERYONE THEIR MORNING GREETING!

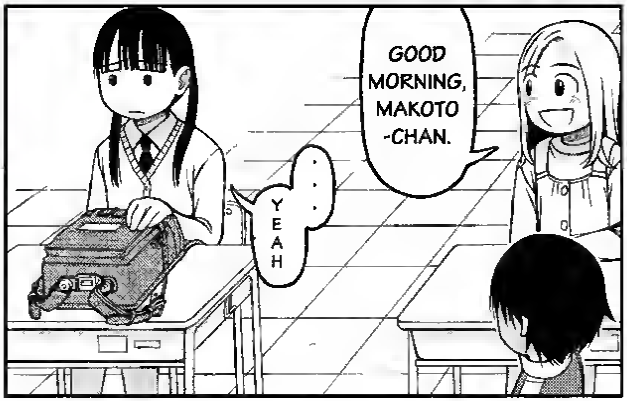
GOOD MORNING.
MOR-NING
MORNING, NINA-CHAN

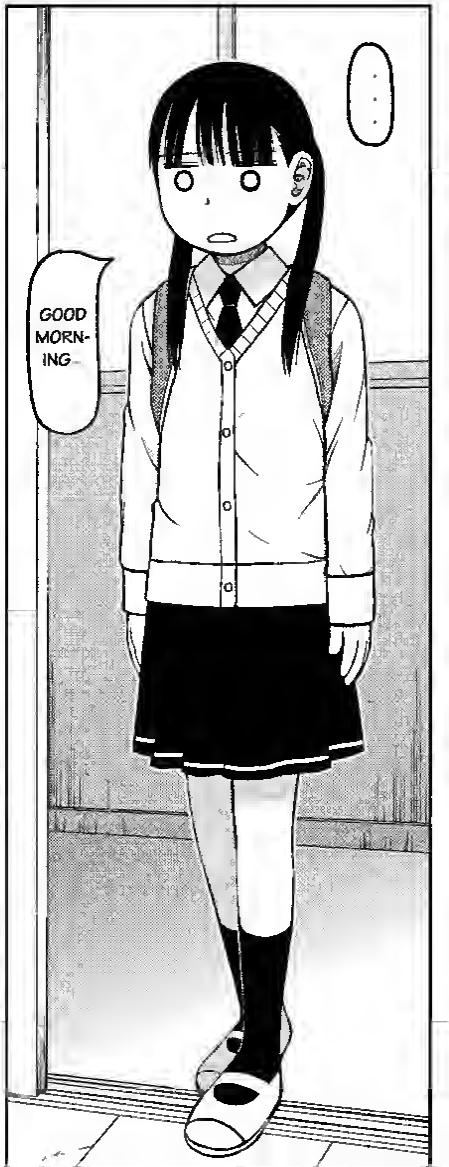

HEYO, ARISA -CHAN.
HEYO, NINA.

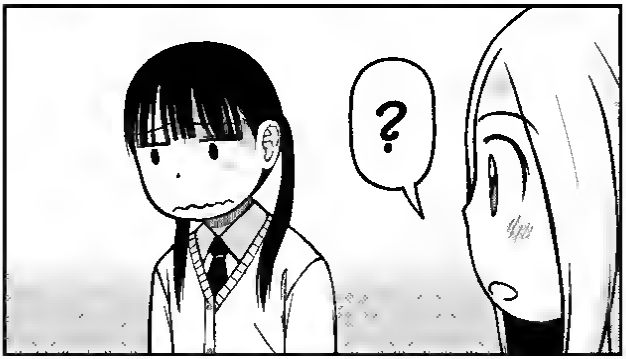

YEP.
YOU'RE AS ENERGETIC AS EVER THIS MORNING.


GOOD MORNING!

YOU SEEM PRETTY LIVELY, TOO, ARISA-CHAN.
CAN YOU TELL?
WELL, FIRST PERIOD TODAY IS P.E.!
I SEE.


GOOD MORNING, MAKOTO -CHAN.
YEAH


GOOD MORN-ING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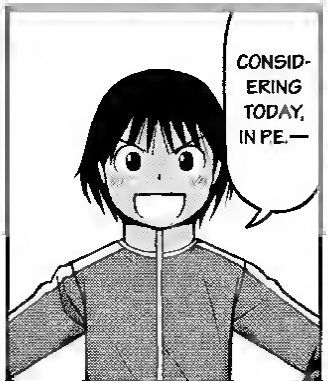
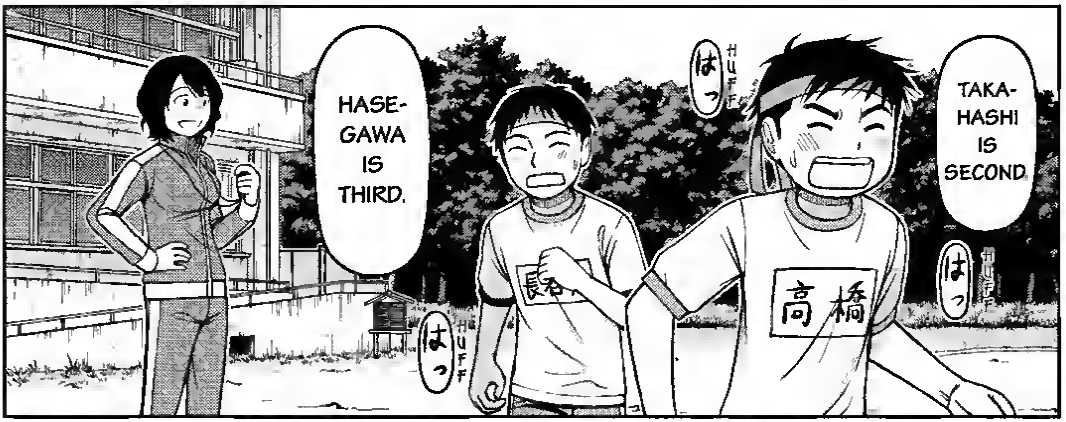
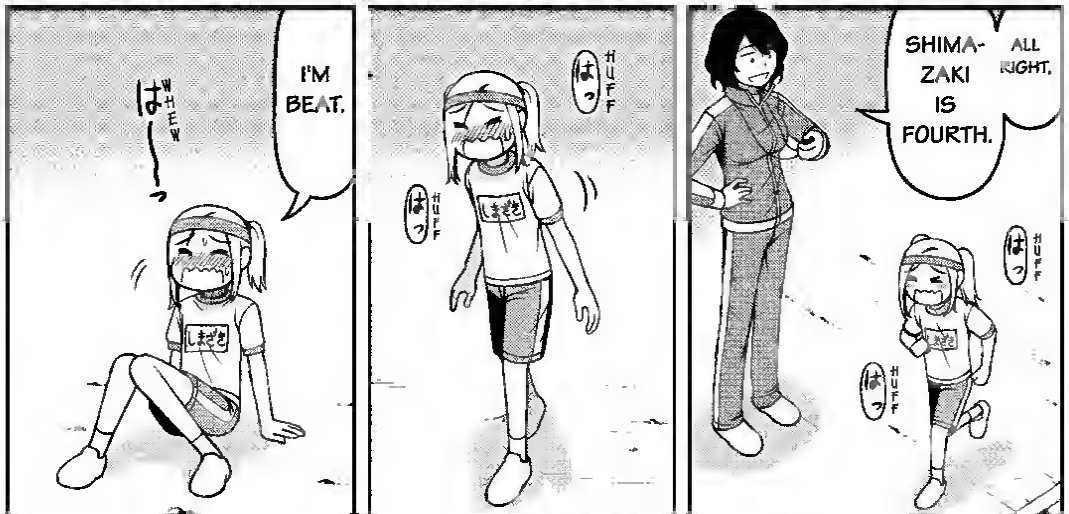

CONSID-ERING TODAY, IN P.E.—

YOU DON'T SEEM TOO HAPPY, MAKOTO -CHAN.
WHAT'S WRO-NG?
YEAH, KOHINATA PROBABLY WOULDN'T BE TOO EXCITED.

WE'RE RUNNING A MARATHON.
*TAKAHASHI
*HASEGAWA
*MORISAWA
*SHIMAZAKI
はっ HUFF
JUST A LITTLE MORE! KEEP IT UP!

ALL RIGHT.
MORI-SAWA'S FIRST.
沢

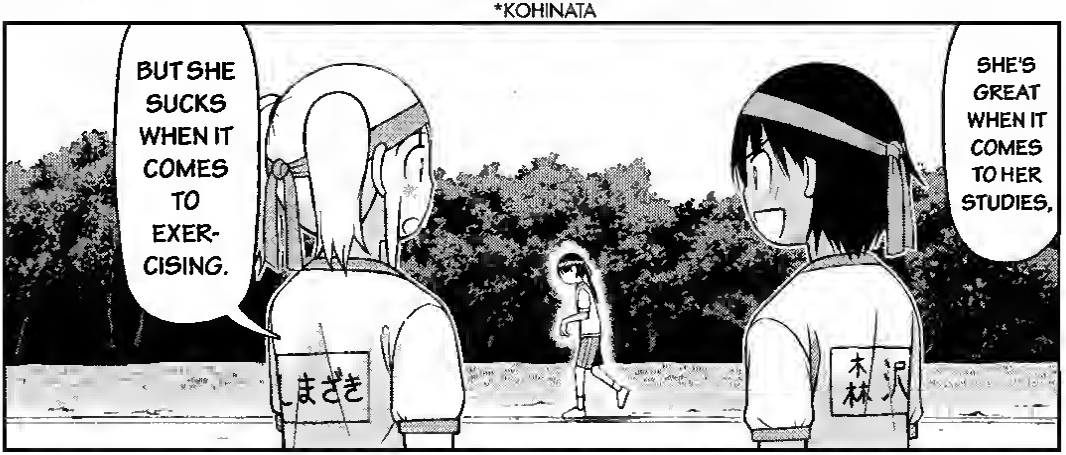

TAKA-HASHI IS SECOND.
はっ
HUFF
高橋
HASE-GAWA IS THIRD.
はっ
HUFF
長谷

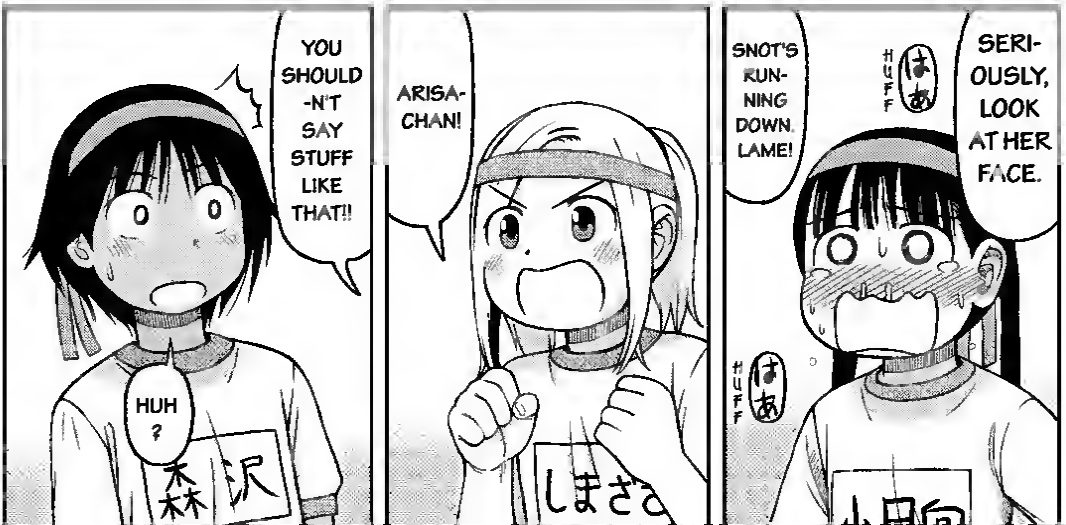

ALL RIGHT.
SHIMA-ZAKI IS FOURTH.
はっ
HUFF
はっ
HUFF
しまざき
はっ
HUFF
はっ
HUFF
しまざき
I'M BEAT.
はーっ
WHEW
しまざき

WOW, ARISA-CHAN ...
NINA, IT'S BETTER IF YOU DON'T SIT DOWN RIGHT AFTER YOU REACH THE GOAL
森沢
はあ HUFF
はあ HUFF
しまざき
YOU'RE A REALLY FAST RUN-NER.
WELL, YEAH ...
I'M GOOD AT ANY SPORT,
BUT I LOVE RUNNING THE MOST.
WOW.
COM-PARED TO THAT...
...
森沢
HE HE HE ...
YOU'RE SECOND OUT OF THE GIRLS.
YOU'RE NOT TOO BAD YOUR-SELF, NINA.

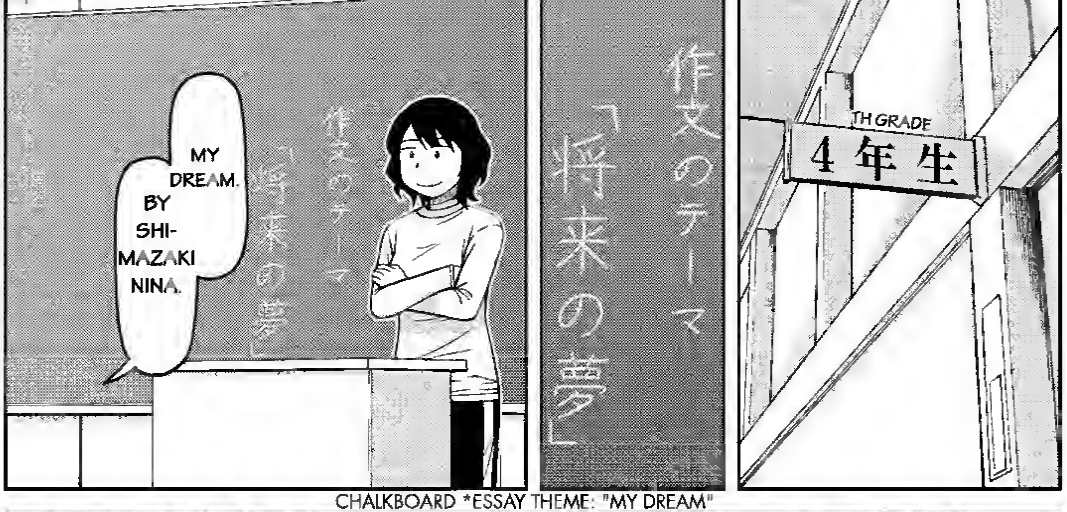
KOHINATA...
はあ HUFF
はあ HUFF
小日向
IS SO SLOW!
SHE'S TOTALLY LAST
はあ HUFF

*KOHINATA


SHE'S GREAT WHEN IT COMES TO HER STUDIES,
BUT SHE SUCKS WHEN IT COMES TO EXER-CISING.
しまざき
木沢林


SERI-OUSLY, LOOK AT HER FACE.
はあ HUFF
SNOT'S RUN-NING DOWN. LAME!
はあ HUFF
小日向
ARISA-CHAN!
しまざき
YOU SHOULD-N'T SAY STUFF LIKE THAT!!
HUH?
木沢林

YOU SHOULD HELP ME CHEER MAKOTO-CHAN ON, ARISA-CHAN.
WHA?
MAKOTO-CHAN IS RUNNING AND TRYING HER VERY HARDEST.
YOU CAN DO IT, MAKOTO-CHAN!
YOU CAN DO IT!
しまざき
森沢

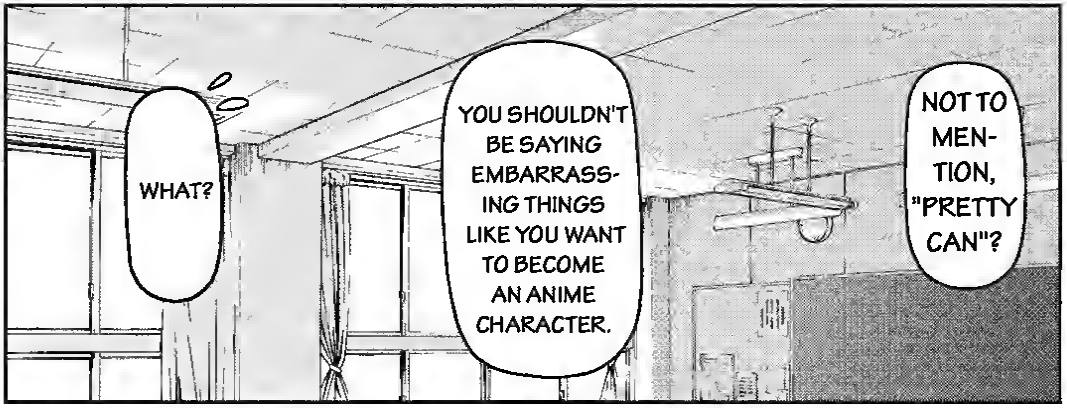



CHALKBOARD *ESSAY THEME: "MY DREAM"

CHALKBOARD *ESSAY THEME: "MY DREAM"

WHY ARE YOU ALL LAUGH-ING?
AHAHAHAHAHAHA
あはははははは
HUH?
SHI-MAZA-KI-SAN, SHI-MAZA-KI-SAN.
POKE
POKE
I'M REALLY SERI-OUS ABOUT THIS.
JEEZ.
MA-KOTO-CHAN?
I MEAN, YOU'RE REALLY CUTE, SHIMAZA-KI-SAN.
THANK YOU, MAKOTO-CHAN!
TOTALLY THINK YOU CAN BECOME AN IDOL, SHIMAZA-KI-SAN.
I...
REALLY?

REALLY?
THERE'S NO WAY THAT IT'S THAT EASY TO BECOME AN IDOL.
HUH?

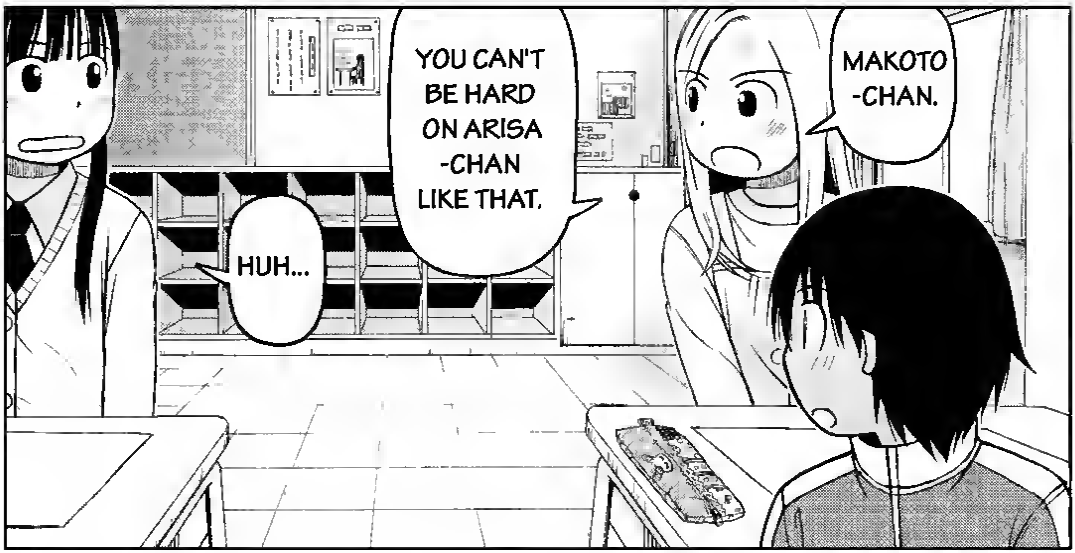

NOT TO MENTION, "PRETTY CAN"?
YOU SHOULDN'T BE SAYING EMBARRASSING THINGS LIKE YOU WANT TO BECOME AN ANIME CHARACTER.
WHAT?

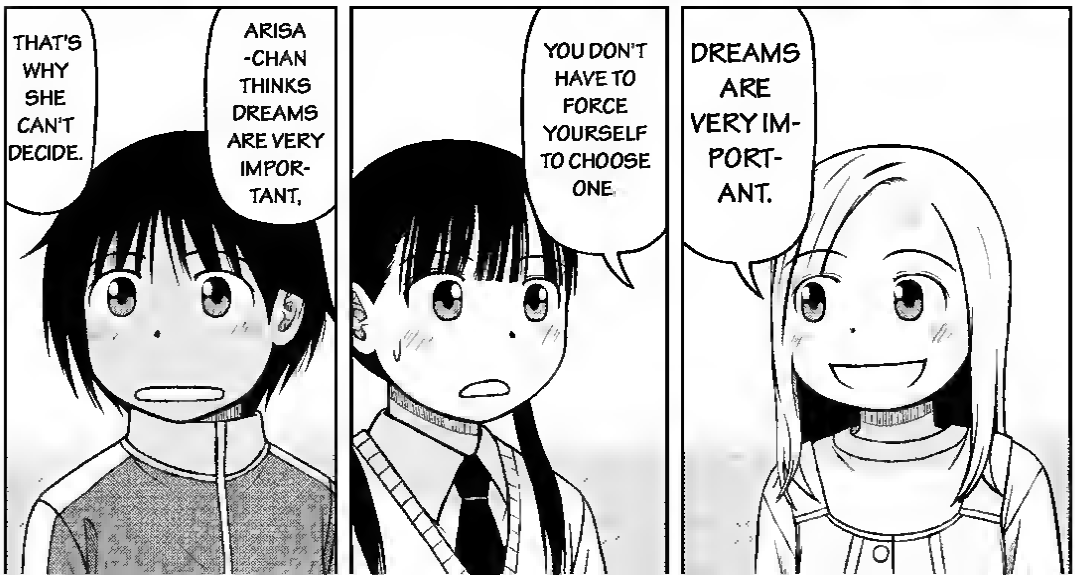
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOURSELF?
YOU'RE SAYING THINGS LIKE THAT...

HEY!
DON'T CRITICIZE SHIMAZAKI-SAN'S DREAMS!
WHY ARE YOU BUTTING IN?

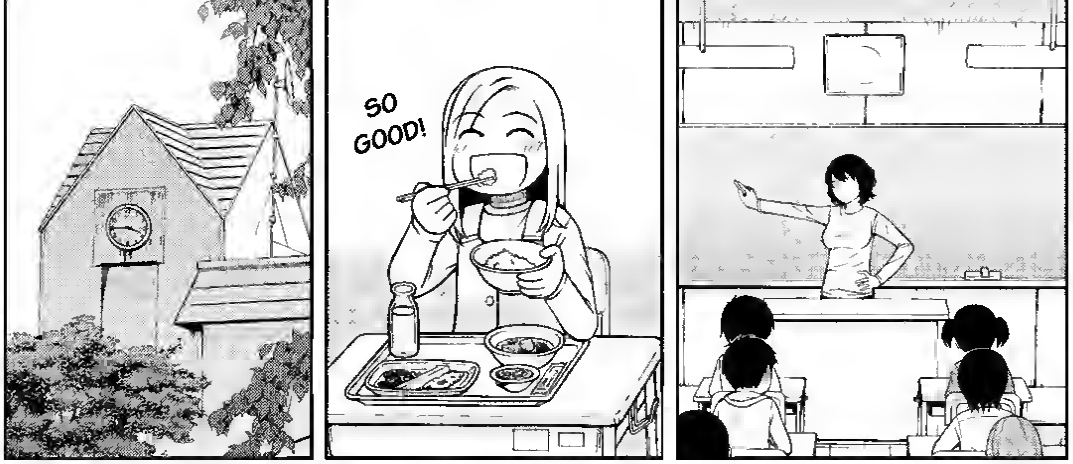
ER...

"I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT MY DREAM IS."
THAT'S
A LOT MORE EMBAR-RASSING, ISN'T IT?
I CAN'T HELP IT, SINCE I REALLY DON'T KNOW.

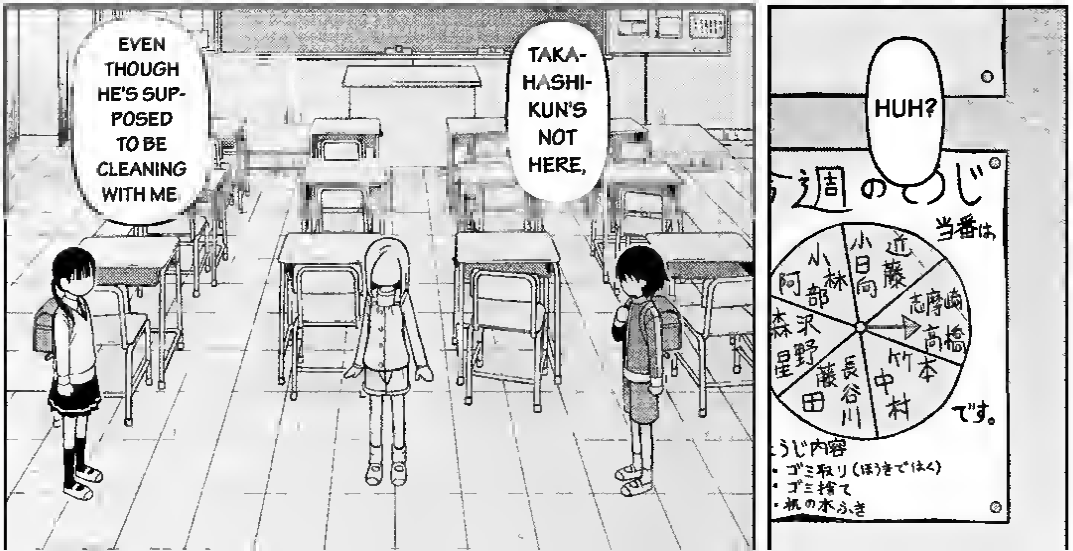

MAKOTO -CHAN.
YOU CAN'T BE HARD ON ARISA -CHAN LIKE THAT.
HUH...


DREAMS ARE VERY IM-PORT-ANT.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF TO CHOOSE ONE.
ARISA -CHAN THINKS DREAMS ARE VERY IMPOR-TANT,
THAT'S WHY SHE CAN'T DECIDE.

RIGHT
RIGHT
SQUEEZE
TH-
THAT'S RIGHT
YOU SAY GOOD THINGS, NINA.
TE HE HE.
HEY,
MORI-SAWA AND SHI-MAZA-KI!
NO TALKING IN CLASS.
SORRY!
...

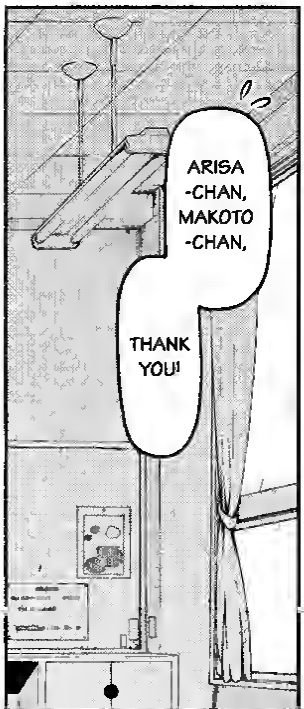


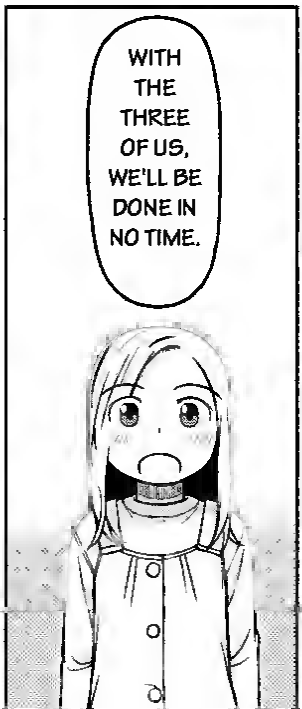
POSTER THIS WEEK'S CLEANING DUTIES



TAKA-
HASHI
...
MUST
HAVE
RUN
AWAY.
WHAT?
HE'S
SKIP-
PING.

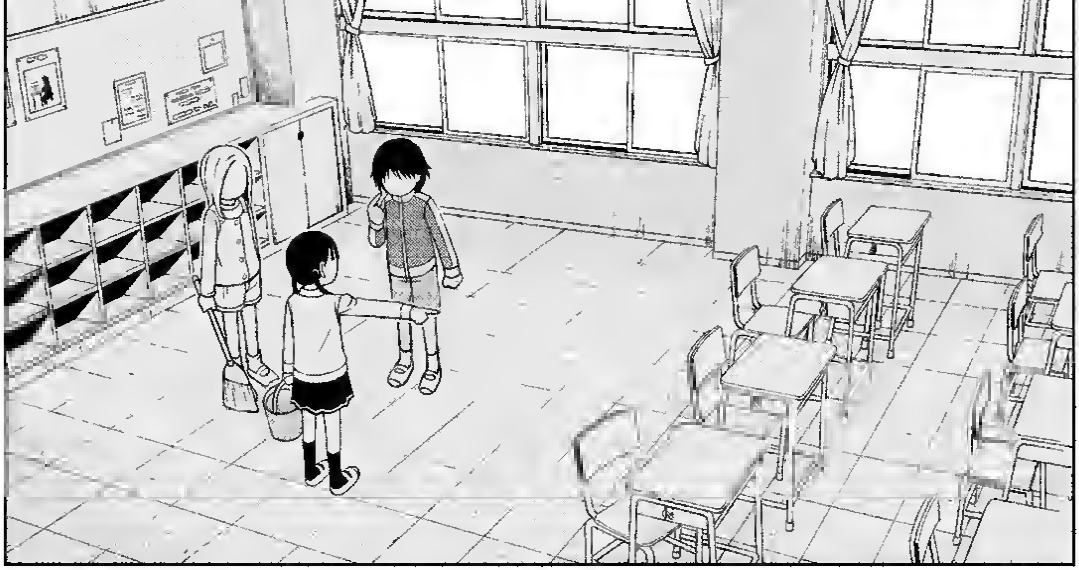
WELL,
BOYS
DO SKIP
PRETTY
OFTEN.
WHAT
AM I
GOING
TO DO?
DO I HAVE
TO CLEAN
BY MYSELF,
THEN?

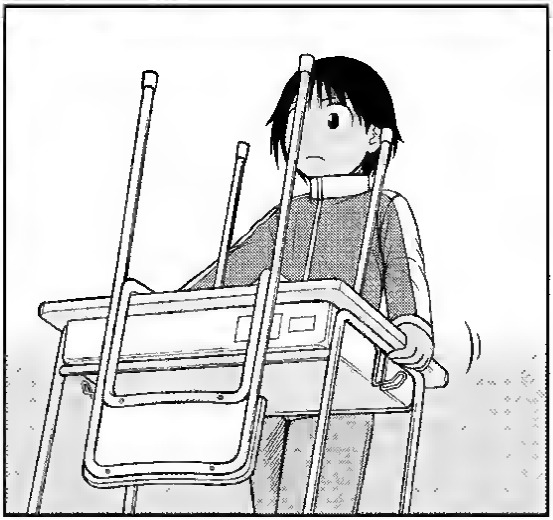

ARISA
-CHAN,
MAKOTO
-CHAN,
THANK
YOU!

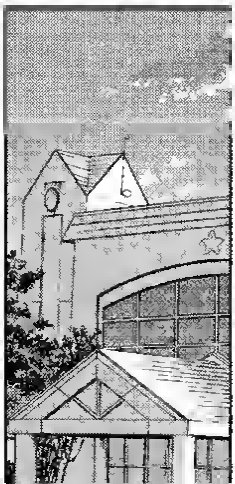

WITH
THE
THREE
OF US,
WE'LL BE
DONE IN
NO TIME.

I'LL
HELP
YOU
OUT.
LOOKS
LIKE I
DON'T
HAVE A
CHOICE.

I'LL
HELP,
TOO.

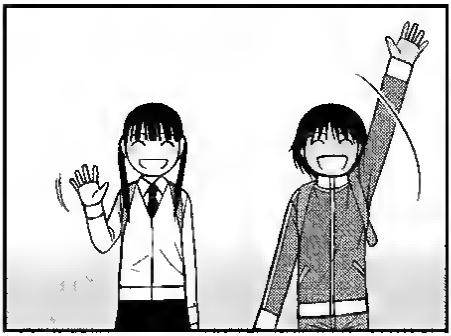


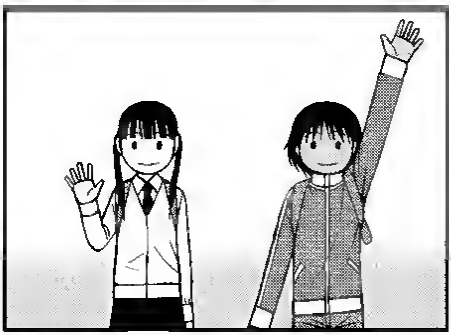


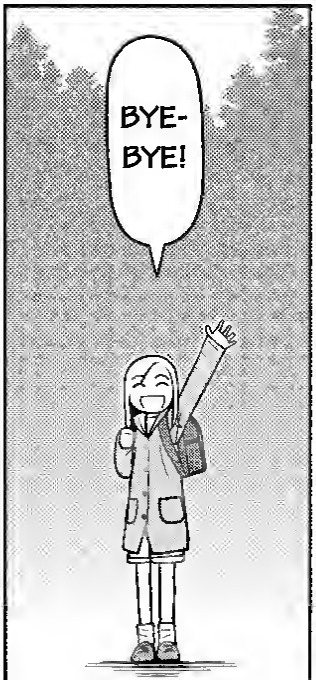


WHAT?
KIDS IN FINLAND DON'T CLEAN THEIR CLASSROOMS?
NOPE
A JANITOR COMES TO CLEAN THEM.

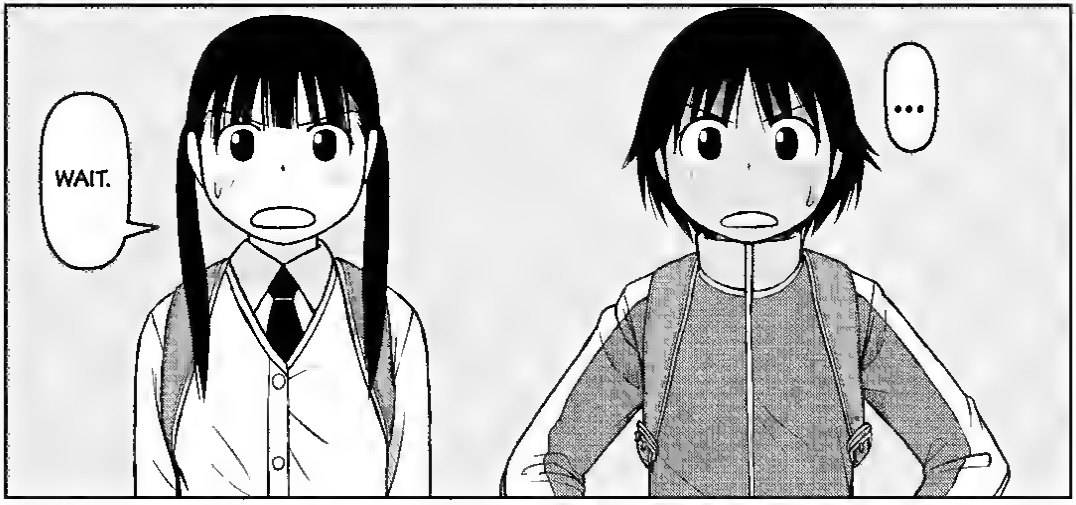
SERIOUSLY?
I WISH I HAD BEEN BORN IN FINLAND, TOO, THEN
AHAHAHA...

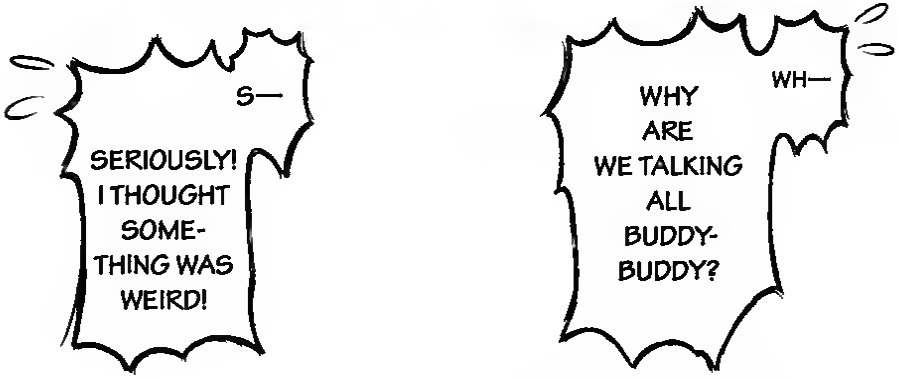





BYE-BYE!

ARISA-CHAN, MAKOTO-CHAN,
THANKS FOR HELPING ME CLEAN TODAY.
DON'T MENTION IT.

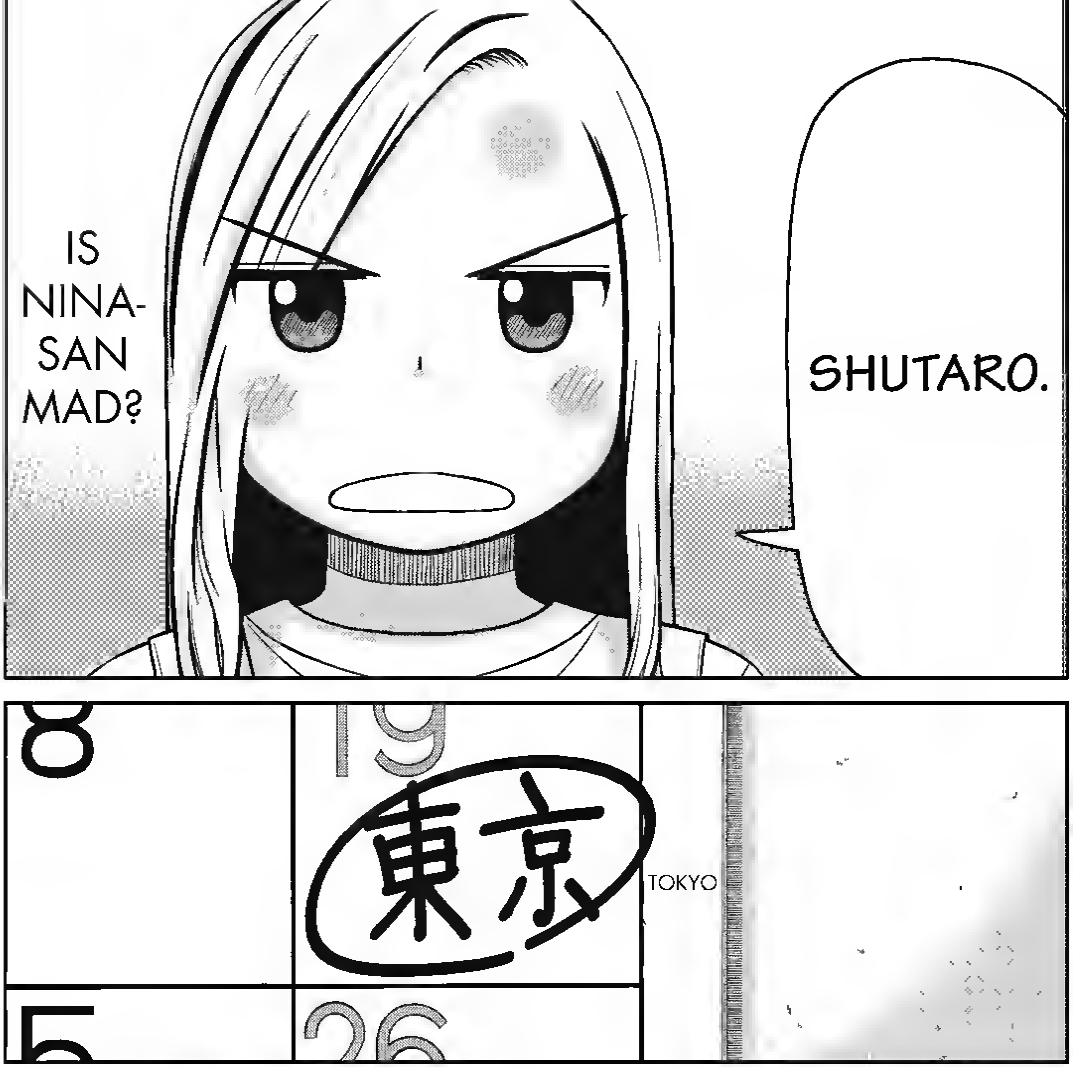


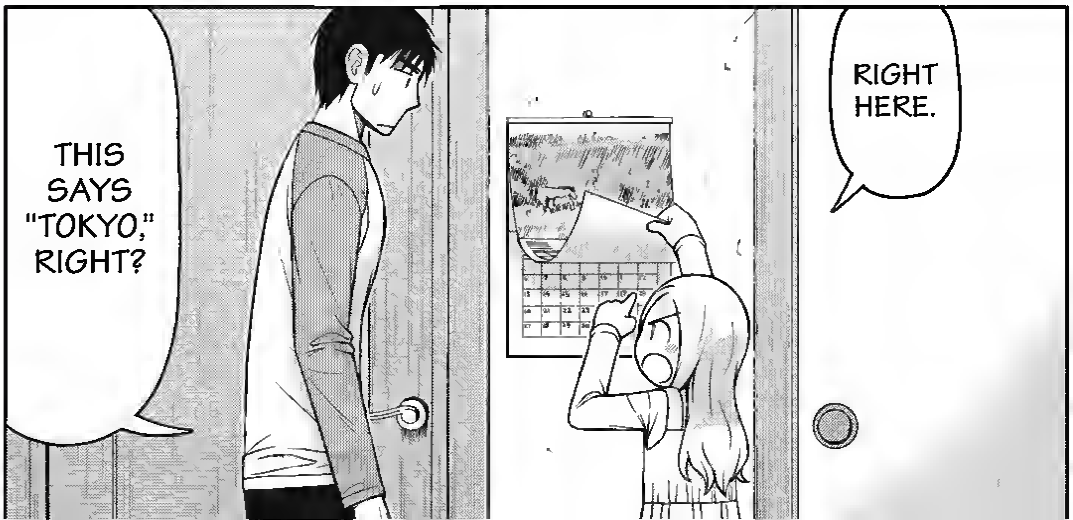

THERE ARE FRIENDSHIPS LIKE THIS, RIGHT?

# CHAPTER 34:
# THIS ISN'T A GAME

*WILL AN UNEXPECTED SURPRISE LEAD TO NINA'S DREAMS COMING TRUE?!*


IS NINA-SAN MAD?
SHUTARO.


東京
TOKYO


THIS SAYS "TOKYO," RIGHT?
RIGHT HERE.

CRAP...
ARE YOU GOING TO TOKYO ON THAT DAY?
ER...
I CAN'T TAKE YOU WITH ME, NINA.
THEN NINA WILL GO WITH YOU, TOO.
THERE'S SOMETHING REALLY IMPORTANT I HAVE TO DO THAT DAY...
GIVE ME A BREAK...
I'M GOING, NO MATTER WHAT!
WHY?! YOU PROMISED ME THE OTHER DAY!

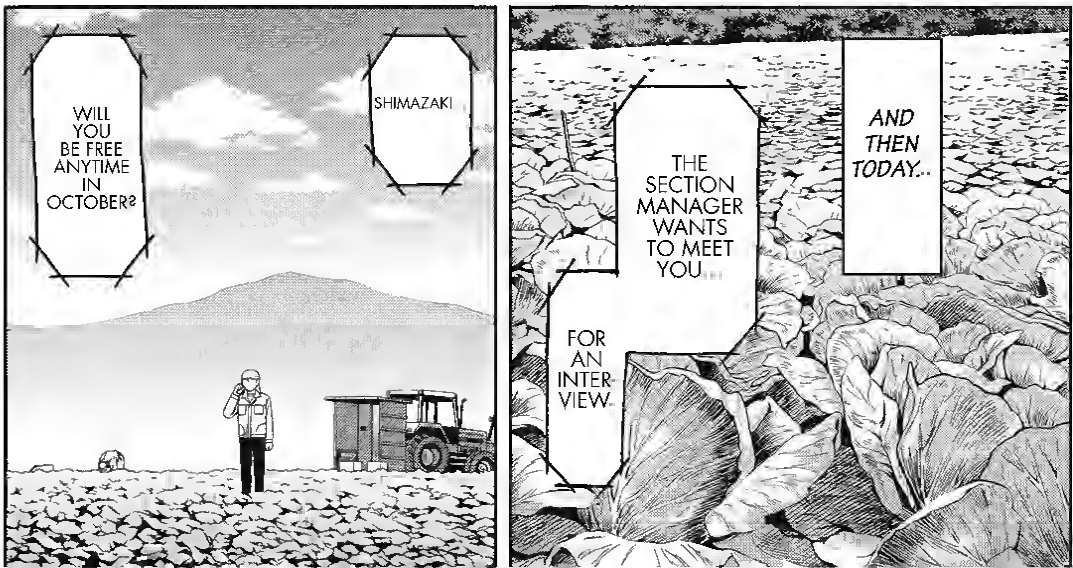
A FEW DAYS AGO,
I GOT A CALL FROM AN OLD COWORKER...
AND SO...
YOU DIDN'T CALL ME TO ASK ABOUT MY HEALTH, DID YOU?
NO... I HAVE SOMETHING I WANT TO DISCUSS WITH YOU.
DISCUSS WITH ME?
WOULD YOU...
WANT TO WORK AT MY COMPANY?

...
WHAT?

WE'VE GOT A PRETTY HUGE PROJECT COMING UP
YEAH...
YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH OUR COMPANY
XXXX RIGHT?

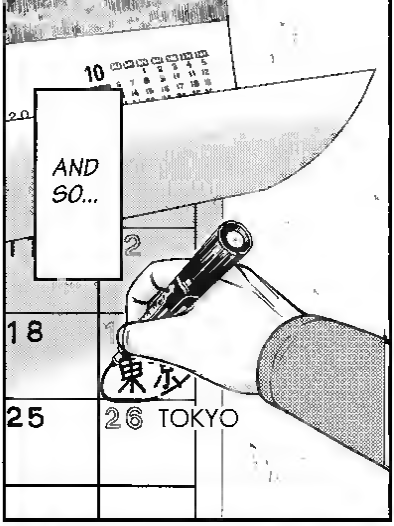
AND, THAT'S WHEN
YOU CAME TO MIND SHIMAZAKI.
AND SO, WE'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT HIRING PEOPLE WITH EXPERIENCE...
AND, ON TOP OF THAT, IF WE WERE TO HIRE NEW GRADUATES, IT'D TAKE FOREVER TO TRAIN THEM TO THE POINT OF BEING USEFUL.
BUT
AS OF RIGHT NOW, WE JUST DON'T HAVE ENOUGH PEOPLE.

ARE YOU LISTENING, SHIMAZAKI?
I WAS GOING TO TALK TO MY BOSSES ABOUT YOU...
WHAT DO YOU SAY?
IF YOU'RE OKAY WITH IT,
ALL RIGHT. I'LL BE IN TOUCH.
PLEASE, YOSHIOKA!
I-
I COULDN'T ASK FOR MORE!


WILL YOU BE FREE ANYTIME IN OCTOBER?
SHIMAZAKI
AND THEN TODAY...
THE SECTION MANAGER WANTS TO MEET YOU...
FOR AN INTERVIEW.

ANYTIME IN OCTOBER?
I'LL TRY TO SEE IF I CAN GET A DAY OFF FROM MY PART-TIME JOB.
GREAT.
HOPEFULLY WE'LL BE ABLE TO WORK TOGETHER AGAIN.
YEAH.
BEEP
...
ALL RIGHT
LOOKS LIKE LUCK HAS FINALLY COME MY WAY.

MAN...
...
NINA CAUGHT ME WRITING "TOKYO" ON THE CALENDAR...


AND SO...
18
東京
25
26 TOKYO

I'LL HAVE MOM TALK TO NINA, TOO..

WHY ARE YOU SAYING THAT, TOO, MOM?
THIS IS FOR AN IMPORTANT INTERVIEW THAT COULD LEAD TO MY FINALLY GETTING ANOTHER JOB.

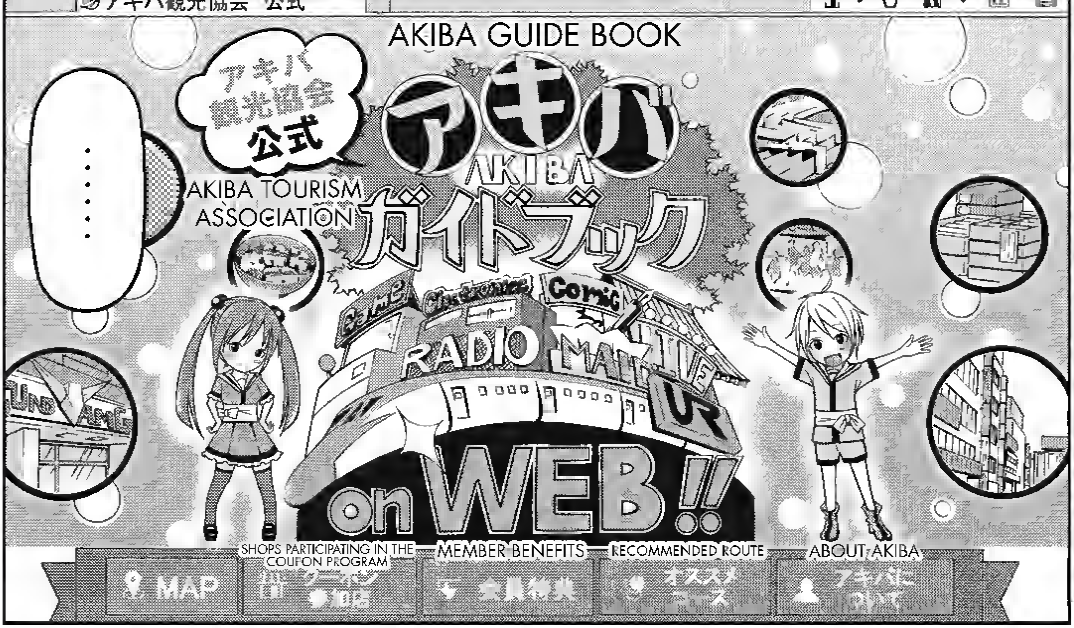
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE HER WITH YOU?

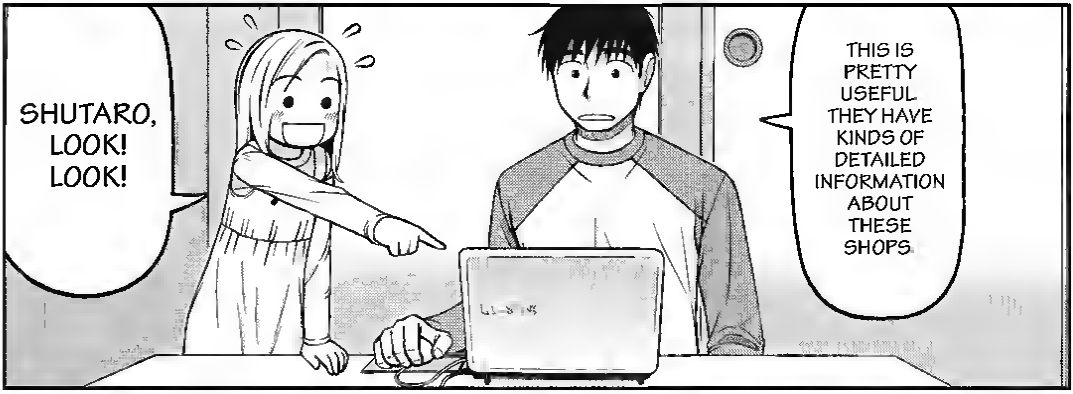
WELL, YEAH, BUT...
OH? BUT AN INTERVIEW USUALLY ONLY TAKES ABOUT 1-2 HOURS, DOESN'T IT?
YEAH, BUT...
WHY NOT SHOW NINA-CHAN AROUND TOKYO AFTER YOU'RE DONE WITH YOUR INTERVIEW?
YOU'RE GOING ALL THE WAY TO TOKYO
NINA PROMISES SHE WON'T GET IN THE WAY OF YOUR WORK.
...
PLEASE...
SHUTARO

I WONDER IF IT'LL BE OKAY
THANK YOU SHUTARO.
YAY!
ALL RIGHT...

OKAY.
SO LET'S DECIDE WHERE WE WANT TO GO BEFOREHAND.
WE WON'T HAVE A LOT OF TIME TO HANG AROUND TOKYO.
LISTEN UP, NINA.

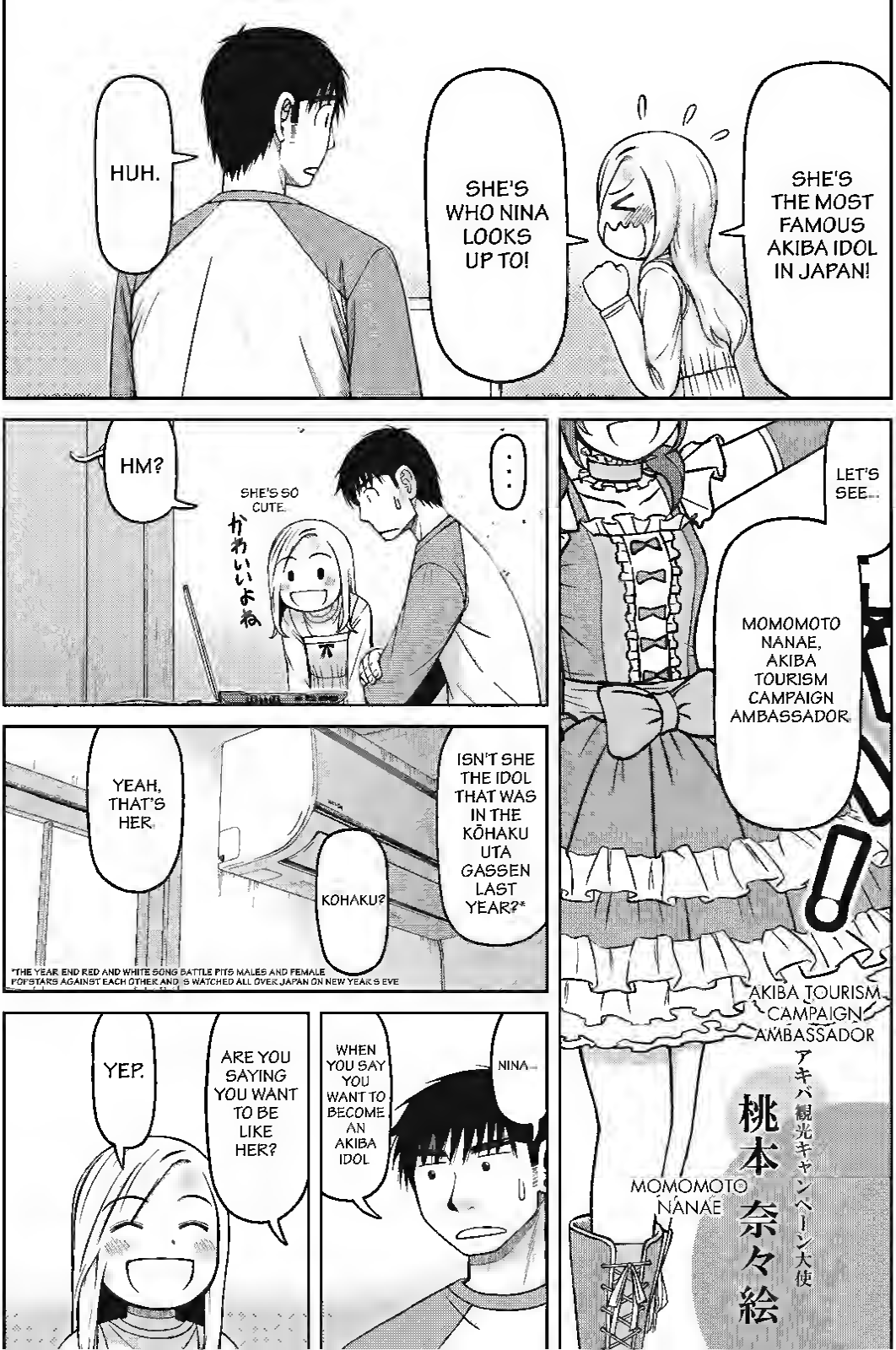
AKIBA!
LET'S SEE...
WHICH PLACE TO DO YOU REALLY WANNA GO TO IN TOKYO, NINA?
IT'LL BE FINE, SHUTARO
I WONDER HOW WE SHOULD LOOK UP PLACES TO GO
AKIHABARA HUH...
I DON T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT PLACE
ALL RIGHT.
LET'S LOOK THEM UP TOGETHER.
OKAY
THAT'S RIGHT.
I GUESS WE CAN DO THAT
YOU CAN READ ALL ABOUT THE STORES IN AKIBA ONLINE.


AKIBA GUIDE BOOK
アキバ観光協会 公式
AKIBA TOURISM ASSOCIATION
アキバ AKIBA ガイドブック
RADIO
Comic
on WEB!!
MAP
SHOPS PARTICIPATING IN THE COUPON PROGRAM
MEMBER BENEFITS
RECOMMENDED ROUTE
ABOUT AKIBA


SHUTARO, LOOK! LOOK!
THIS IS PRETTY USEFUL THEY HAVE KINDS OF DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THESE SHOPS

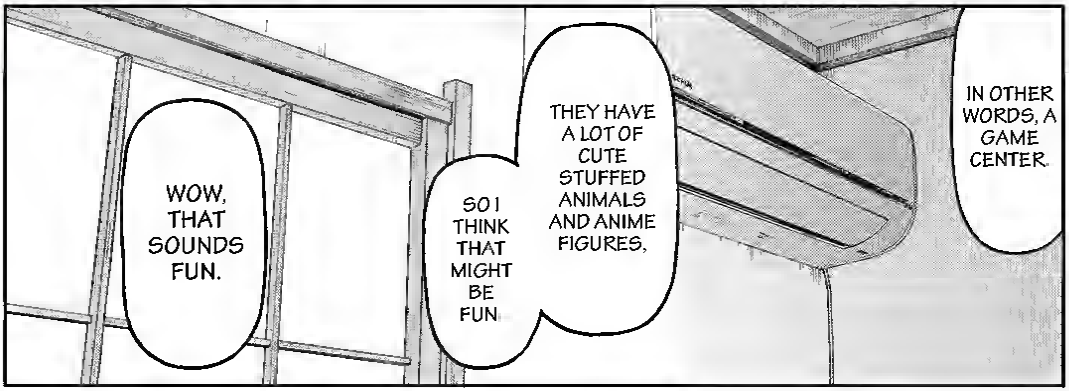
WHAT?
IS SHE FAMOUS?
SHUTARO YOU DON'T KNOW WHO MOMONA-CHAN IS?

IT'S MOMONA-CHAN!
HUH?
WHO?
WELCOME TO AKIBA!

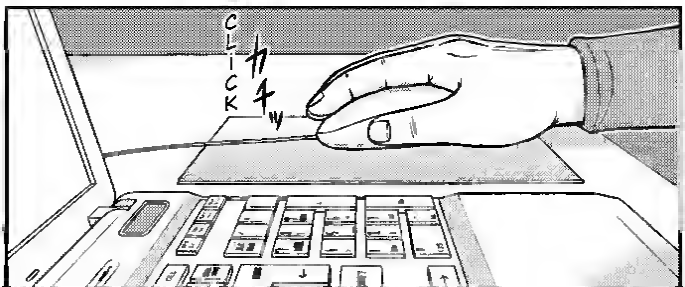

HUH.
SHE'S WHO NINA LOOKS UP TO!
SHE'S THE MOST FAMOUS AKIBA IDOL IN JAPAN!
HM?
SHE'S SO CUTE.
かわいいよね
...
YEAH, THAT'S HER.
KOHAKU?
ISN'T SHE THE IDOL THAT WAS IN THE KŌHAKU UTA GASSEN LAST YEAR?*
*THE YEAR END RED AND WHITE SONG BATTLE PITS MALES AND FEMALE POPSTARS AGAINST EACH OTHER AND IS WATCHED ALL OVER JAPAN ON NEW YEAR'S EVE
YEP.
ARE YOU SAYING YOU WANT TO BE LIKE HER?
NINA...
WHEN YOU SAY YOU WANT TO BECOME AN AKIBA IDOL
LET'S SEE...
MOMOMOTO NANAE, AKIBA TOURISM CAMPAIGN AMBASSADOR.
!
AKIBA TOURISM CAMPAIGN AMBASSADOR
アキバ観光キャンペーン大使
桃本奈々絵
MOMOMOTO NANAE

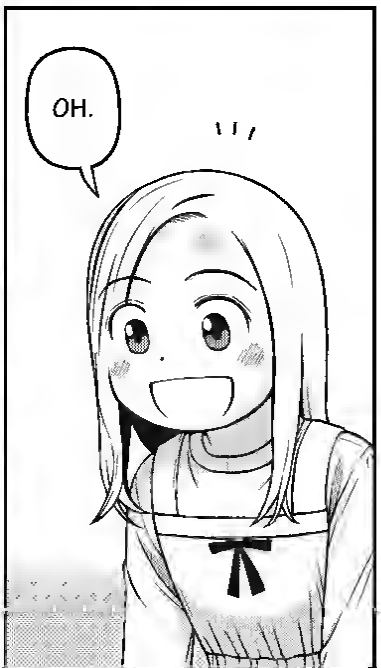
NINA WONDERS IF WE COULD MEET MOMONA-CHAN IF WE GO TO AKIBA.
YEAH, I DON'T THINK SO...
SLOW!
SO HER DREAM IS ACTUALLY TO BECOME A SINGER WHO PERFORMS IN THE KŌHAKU UTA GASSEN.
YOU JUST NOW FIGURED THAT OUT, SHUTARO?
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO HERE
THIS PLACE LOOKS LIKE IT'D HAVE A LOT OF STUFF YOU'D WANT.
OH, AN ANIME GOODS SHOP, HUH?
SHUTARO, NINA WANTS TO GO HERE.

ARCADE?
WHAT'S THAT?
AND LOOK AT ALL THE UFO CATCHERS, TOO.
IT MIGHT BE FUN TO GO TO THE ARCADES IN AKIBA.
OH, YEAH.

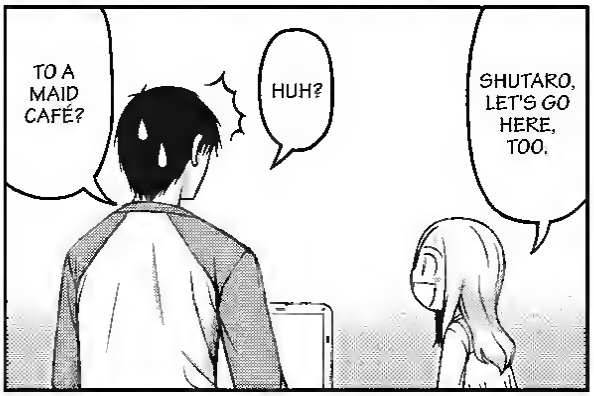

WOW, THAT SOUNDS FUN.
SO I THINK THAT MIGHT BE FUN.
THEY HAVE A LOT OF CUTE STUFFED ANIMALS AND ANIME FIGURES.
IN OTHER WORDS, A GAME CENTER.

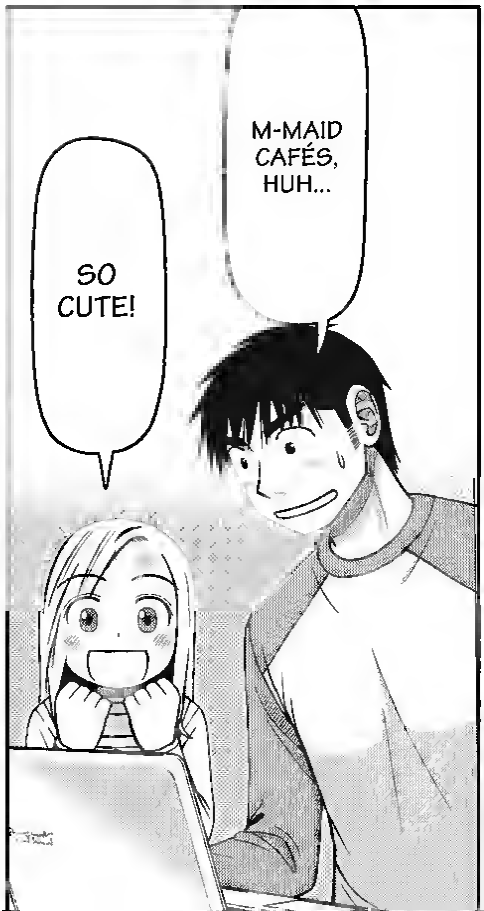
LET'S SEE...
SHUTARO, LET'S LOOK HERE.
IT SAYS IT'S AKIBA'S NO. 1 POPULAR SPOT


CLICK
カチッ

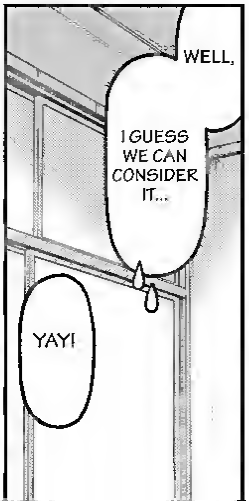

OH.

パッ
POP
アキバメイド喫茶総合案内
AKIBA-MAID CAFÉ GENERAL-INFORMATION


SHUTARO, LET'S GO HERE, TOO.
HUH?
TO A MAID CAFÉ?

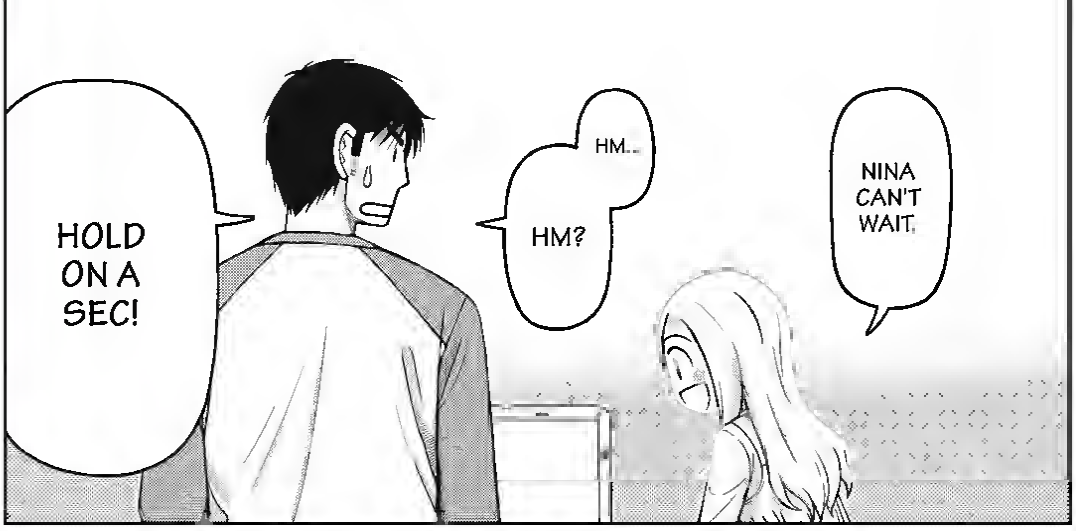

M-MAID CAFÉS, HUH...
SO CUTE!

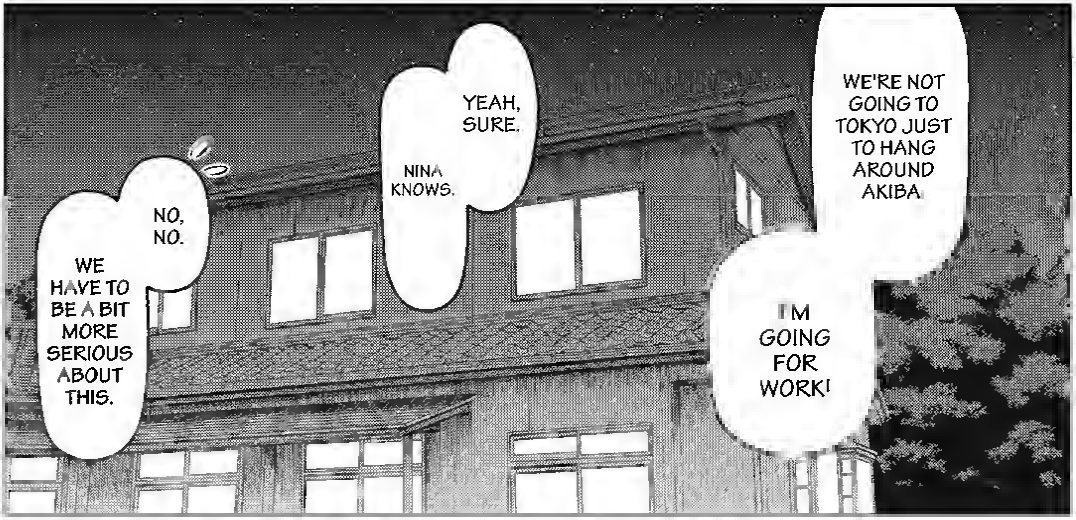
HEY, SHUTARO.
HM?

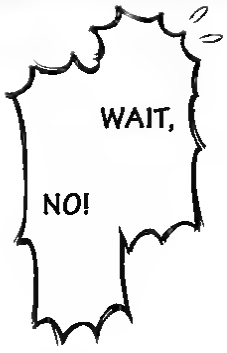

WELL, I GUESS WE CAN CONSIDER IT...
YAY!

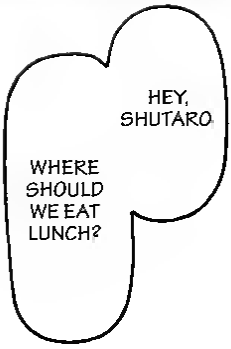
GOING TO AKIBA IS GONNA BE A LOT OF FUN,
WON'T IT?

YEAH,
IT WILL BE...





NO, NO.
WE HAVE TO BE A BIT MORE SERIOUS ABOUT THIS.
YEAH, SURE.
NINA KNOWS.
WE'RE NOT GOING TO TOKYO JUST TO HANG AROUND AKIBA.
I'M GOING FOR WORK!






END

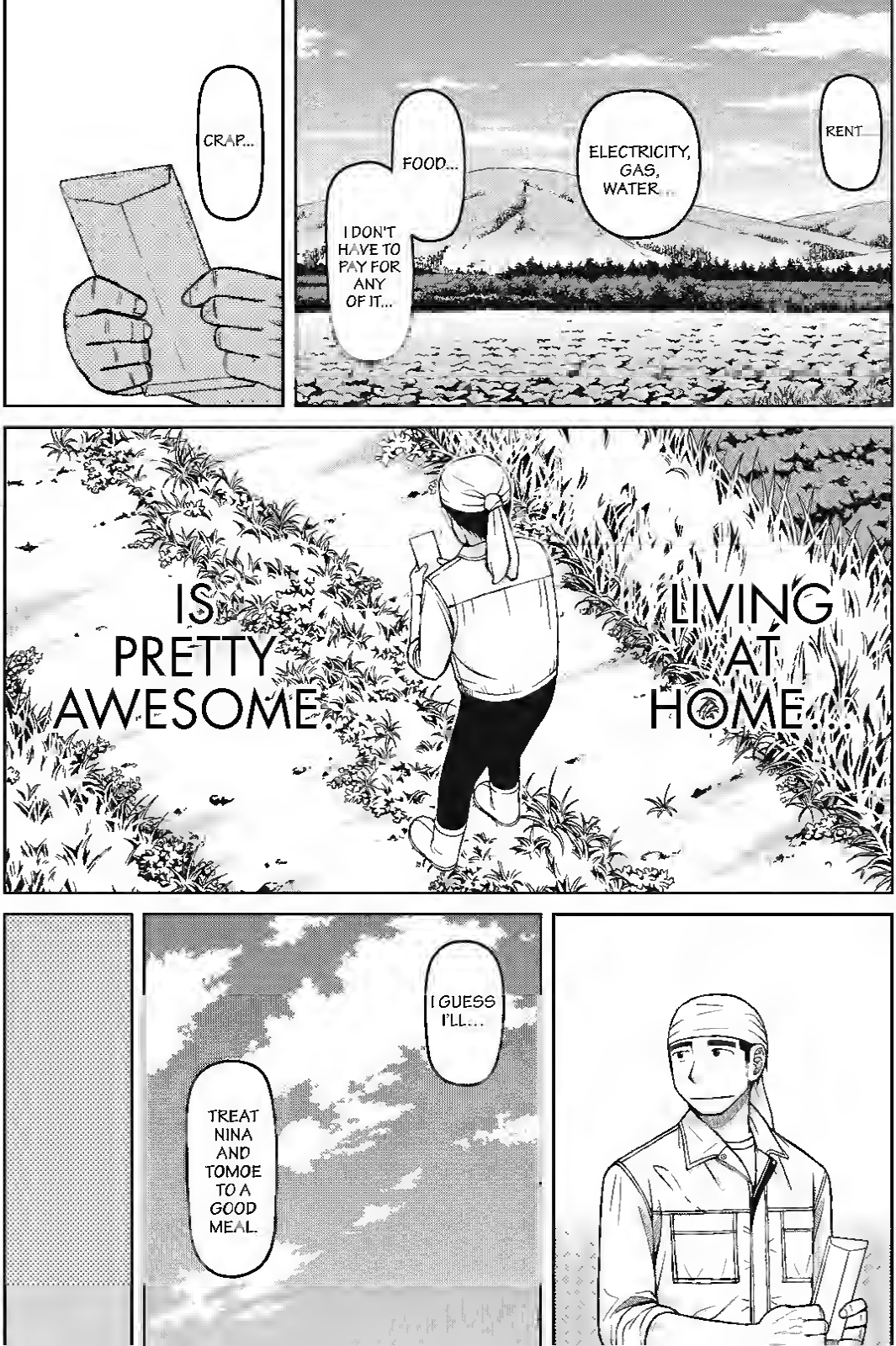
TO BE CONTINUED IN MANGA ACTION, ON SALE TUESDAY, 2/4!

*COULD THIS BE BETTER THAN BEING TOTALLY SERIOUS?!*

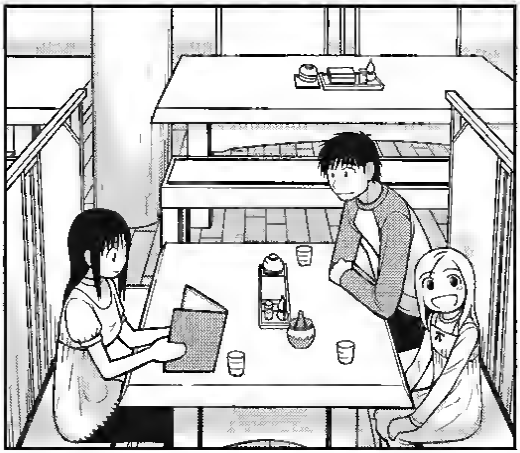
# CHAPTER 35: TALKING ABOUT DREAMS

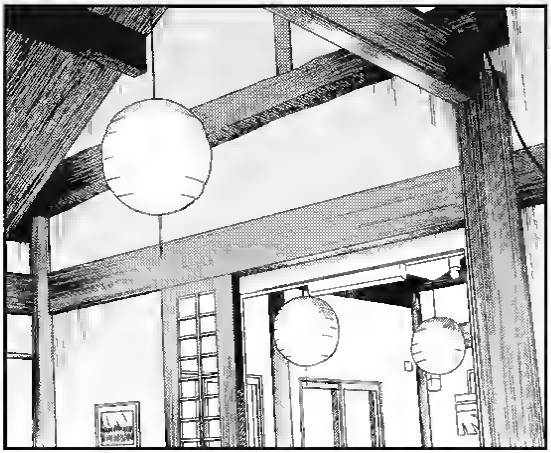
*THAT'S A RATHER GLOOMY FACE FOR SOMEONE WHO HAS A FUN TRIP TO TOKYO ON THE HORIZON...*

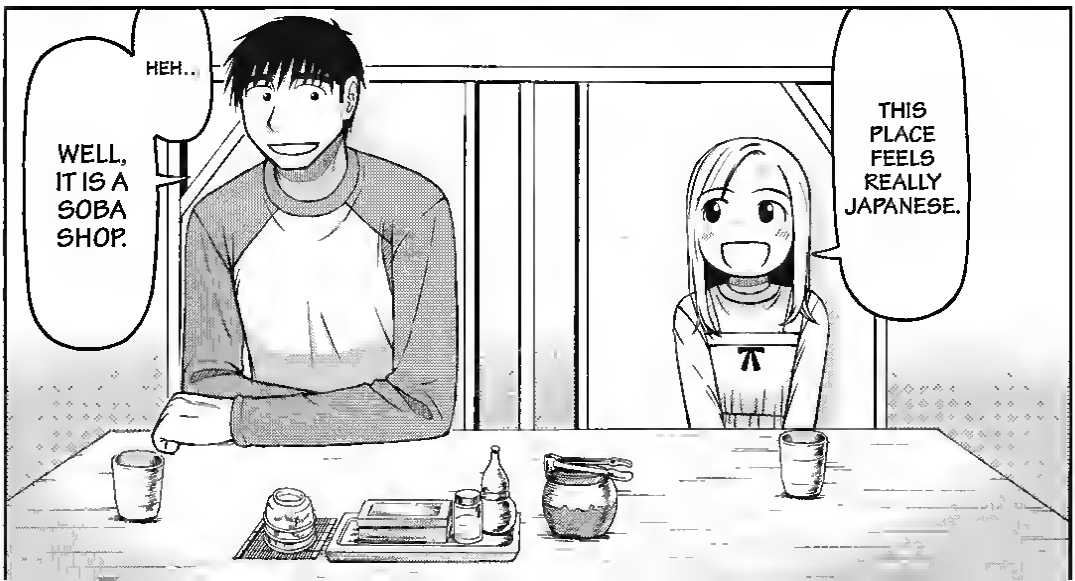
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK
THE FRUITS OF MANUAL LABOR: PAYDAY!
HERE, SHIMAZAKI.
THIS MONTH'S PAY.
WHOA...
THIS MUCH?
SO ALL OF THIS...
IS MINE TO KEEP...
I SEE...
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN HANDED MY PAY DIRECTLY

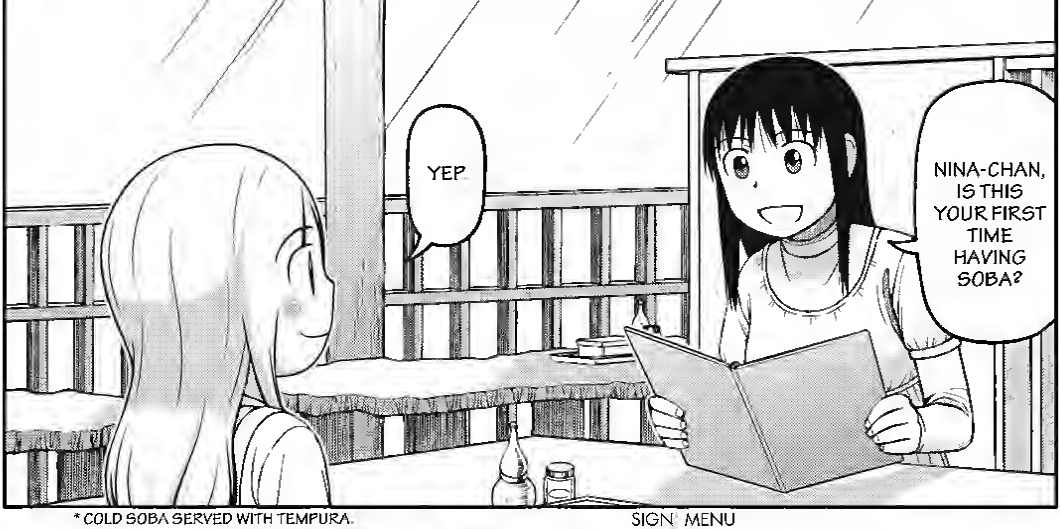

CRAP...
FOOD...
I DON'T HAVE TO PAY FOR ANY OF IT...
ELECTRICITY, GAS, WATER...
RENT...
IS PRETTY AWESOME.
LIVING AT HOME...
I GUESS I'LL...
TREAT NINA AND TOMOE TO A GOOD MEAL.

SIGN: SOBADOKORO

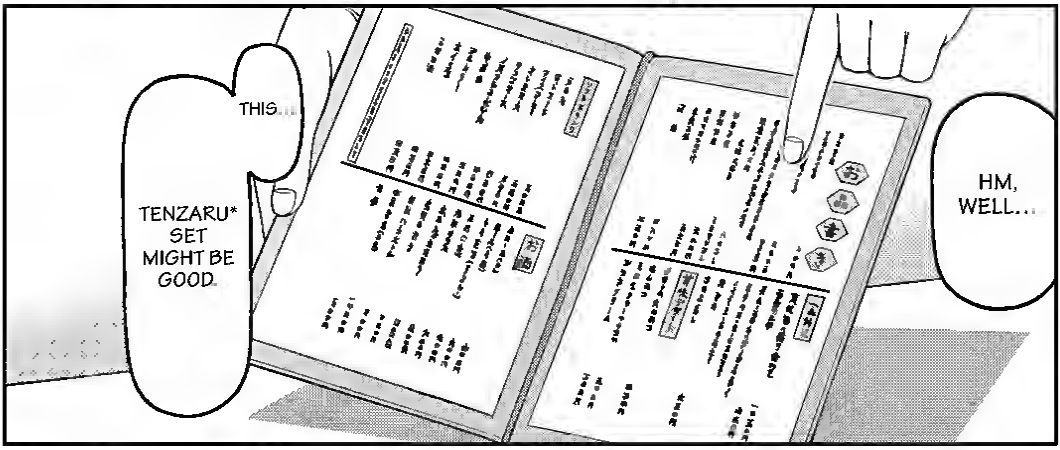


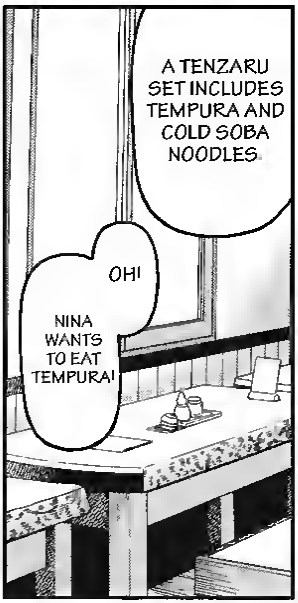


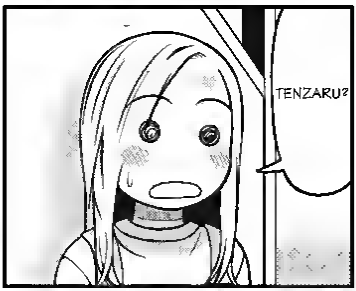




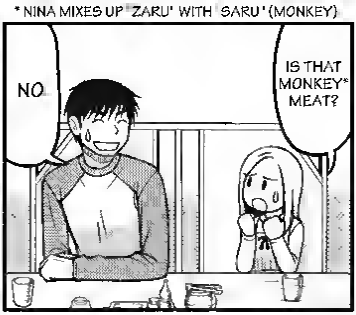

* COLD SOBA SERVED WITH TEMPURA.



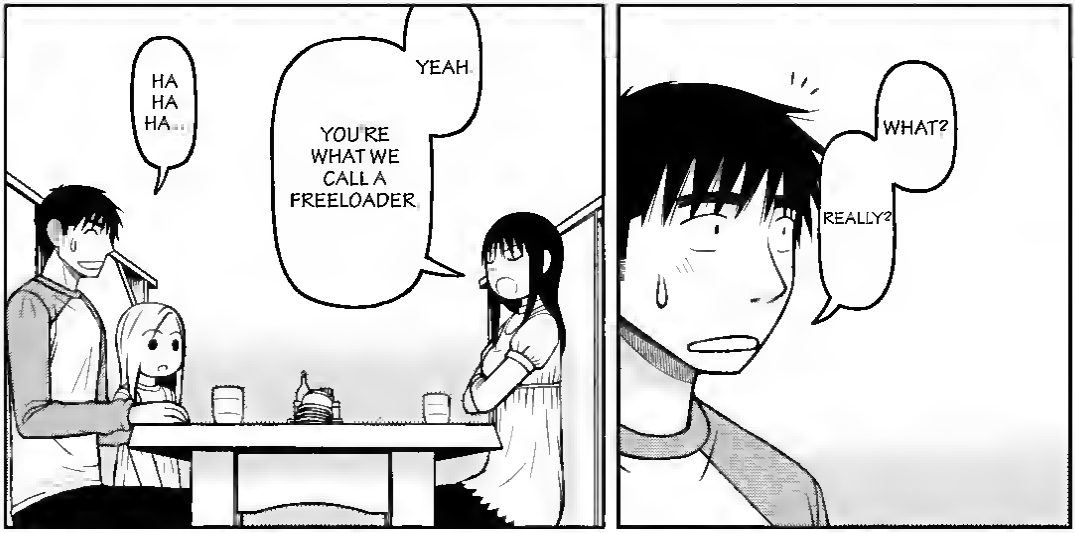


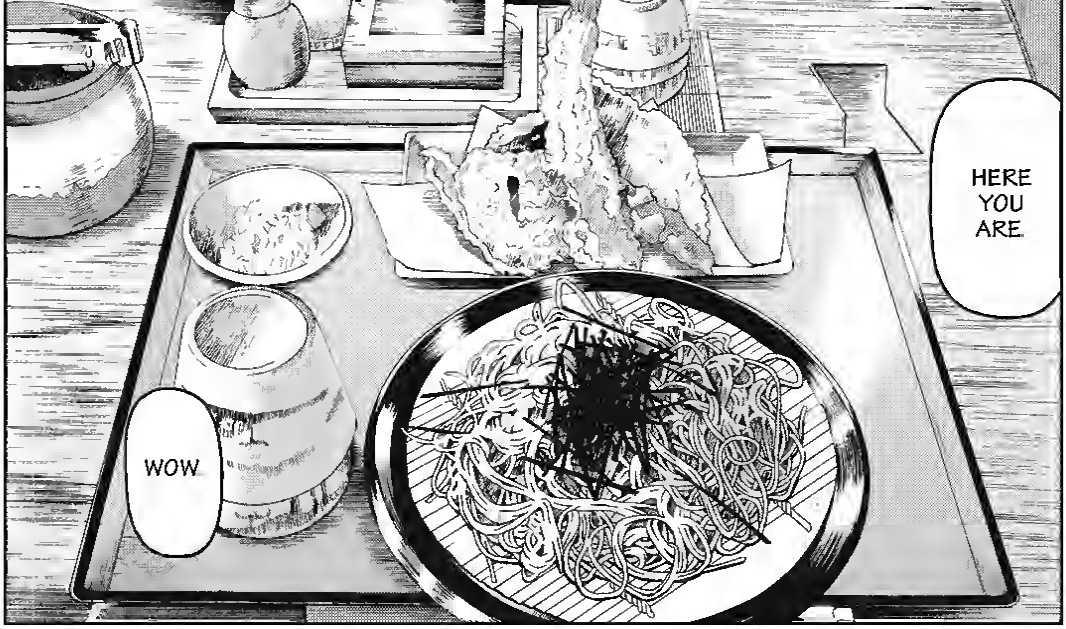

* NINA MIXES UP "ZARU" WITH "SARU" (MONKEY)

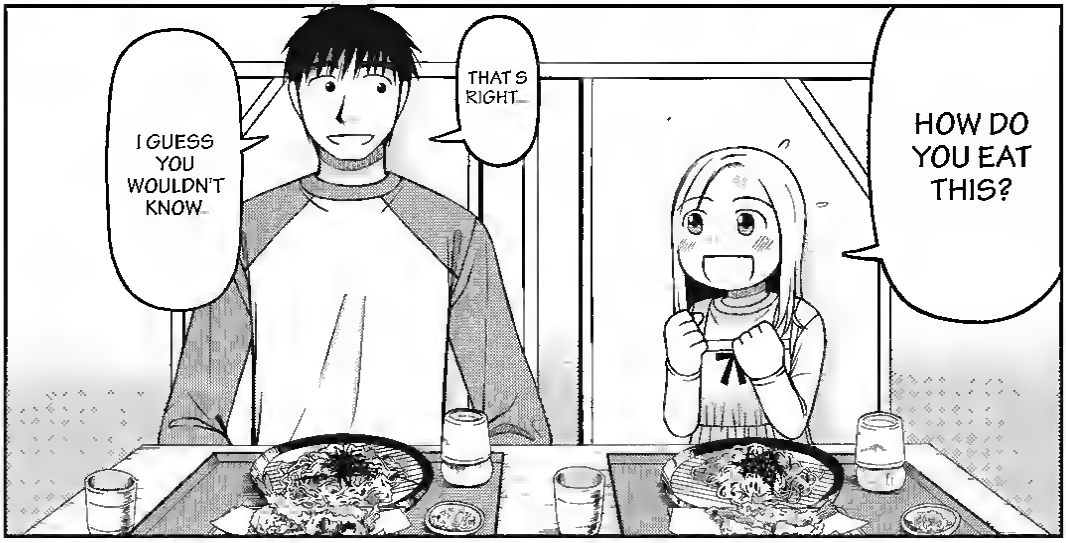


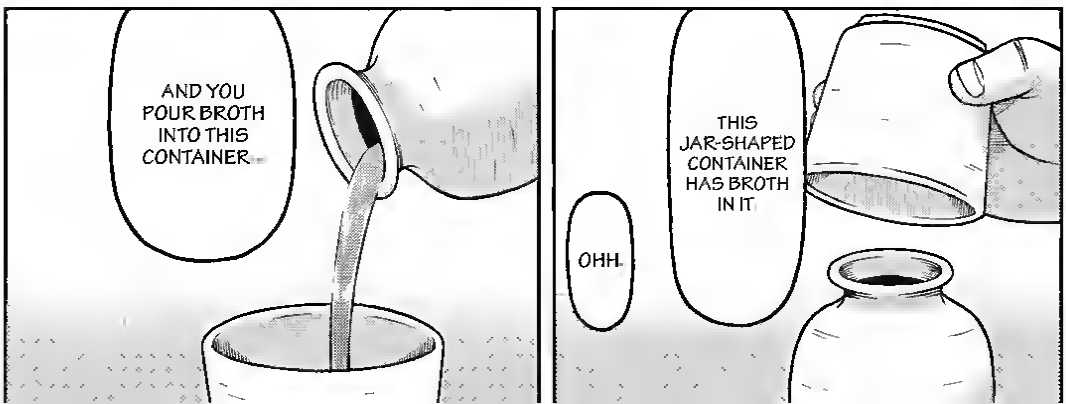
YOU SHOULD AT LEAST GIVE YOUR PARENTS MONEY FOR FOOD.
SINCE YOU GOT PAID,
YOU KNOW,
SHU...


HA HA HA...
YEAH.
YOU'RE WHAT WE CALL A FREELOADER.
WHAT?
REALLY?

I GET IT.
I GUESS I'LL CHIP IN FOR FOOD AT LEAST...
GOOD.
I'LL EXPLAIN IT TO YOU ANOTHER TIME.
WHAT'S A FREE-LOADER?

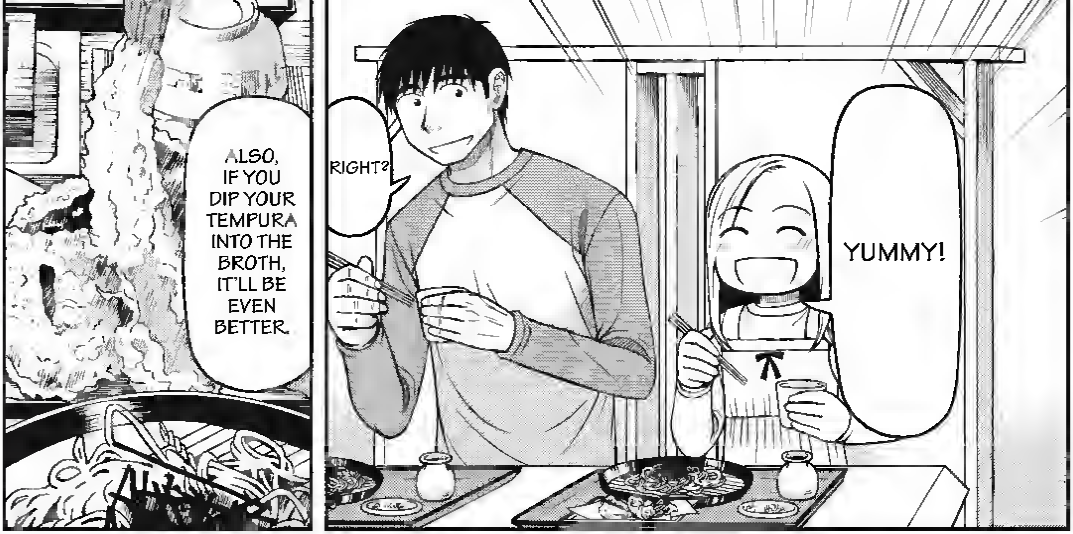

HERE YOU ARE
WOW

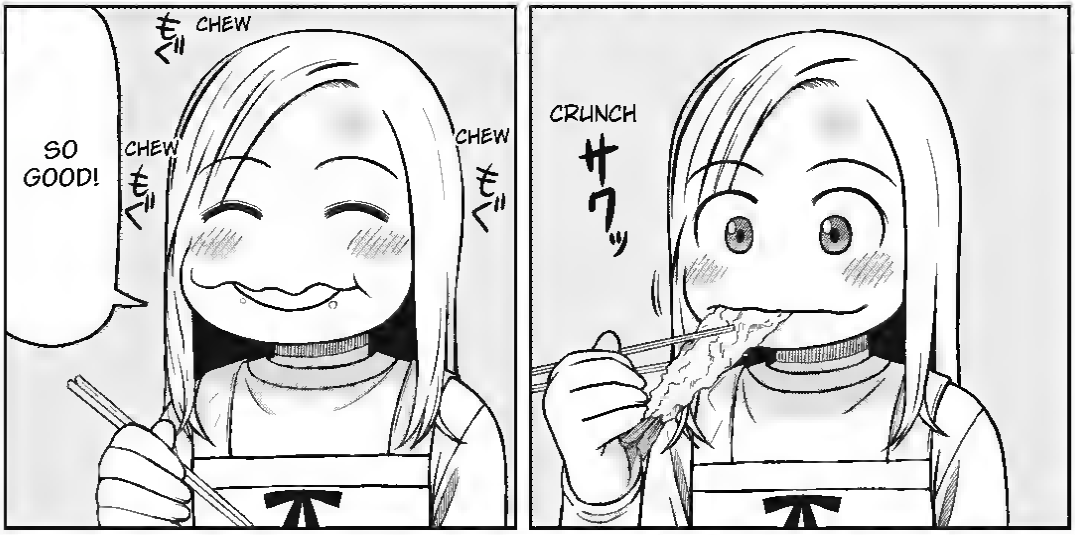

HOW DO YOU EAT THIS?
THAT'S RIGHT
I GUESS YOU WOULDN'T KNOW

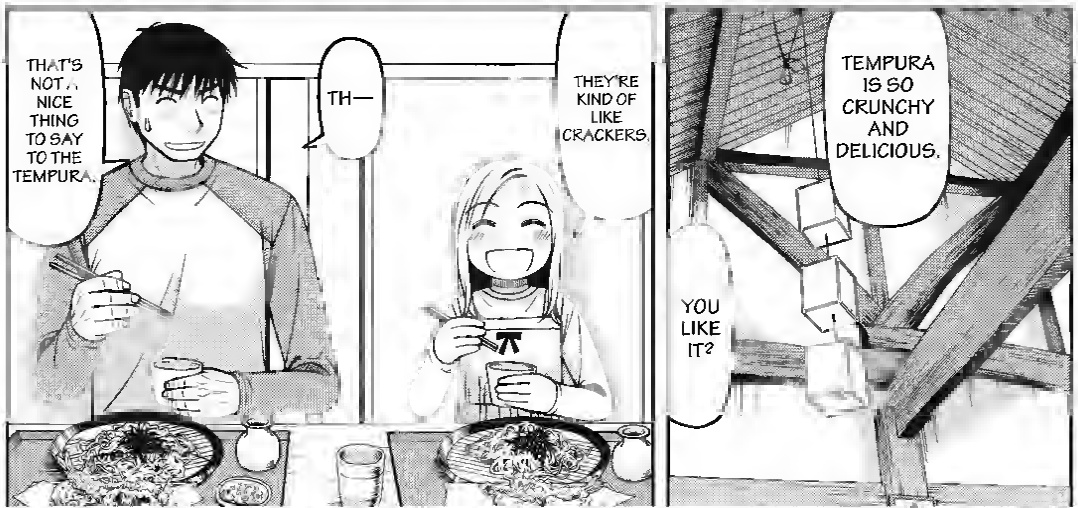

THIS JAR-SHAPED CONTAINER HAS BROTH IN IT
OHH
AND YOU POUR BROTH INTO THIS CONTAINER

THIS SMALL DISH HAS TOPPINGS ON IT.
YOU PUT THE CHOPPED GREEN ONIONS INTO THE BROTH.
THEN
YOU GRAB SOME SOBA WITH YOUR CHOPSTICKS,
DIP IT INTO YOUR BROTH LIKE THIS, AND...
SLURP
ズズズズ～
IT'S JUST LIKE WHEN WE HAD SOMEN!
YEAH, I GUESS IT'S PRETTY SIMILAR.
ALL RIGHT, NINA, YOU TRY NOW.
OKAY.

OKAY.
UH
YOU DON'T HAVE TO USE WASABI.
もぐ CHEW
CHEW もぐ
ズズズー SLURP


ALSO, IF YOU DIP YOUR TEMPURA INTO THE BROTH, IT'LL BE EVEN BETTER.
RIGHT?
YUMMY!


CHEW
もぐ
SO GOOD!
CHEW
もぐ
CHEW
もぐ
CRUNCH
サクッ


THAT'S NOT... NICE THING TO SAY TO THE TEMPURA.
TH—
THEY'RE KIND OF LIKE CRACKERS.
TEMPURA IS SO CRUNCHY AND DELICIOUS.
YOU LIKE IT?

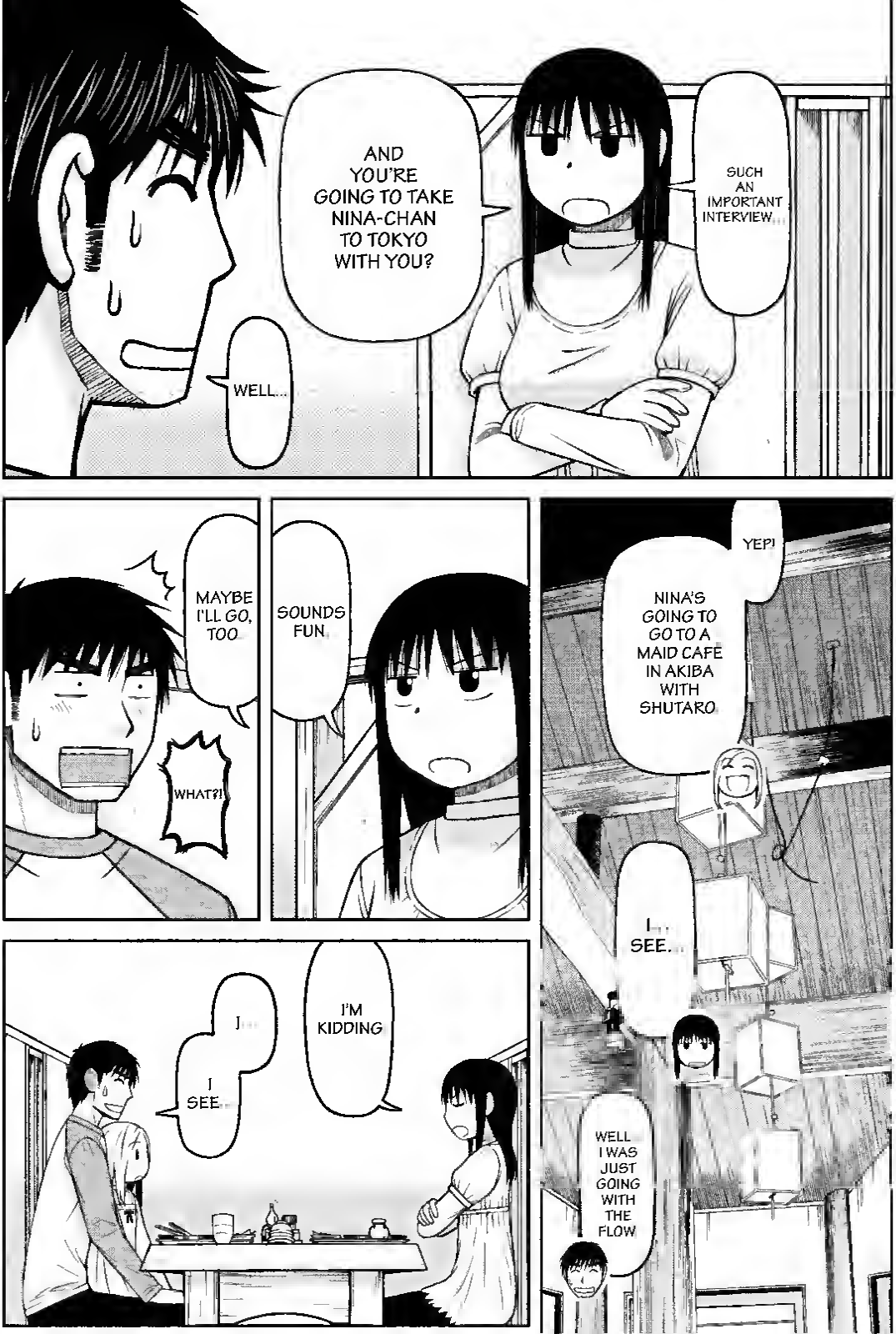
ARE YOU GOING TO BE OKAY?
SHU...
ABOUT EARLIER...

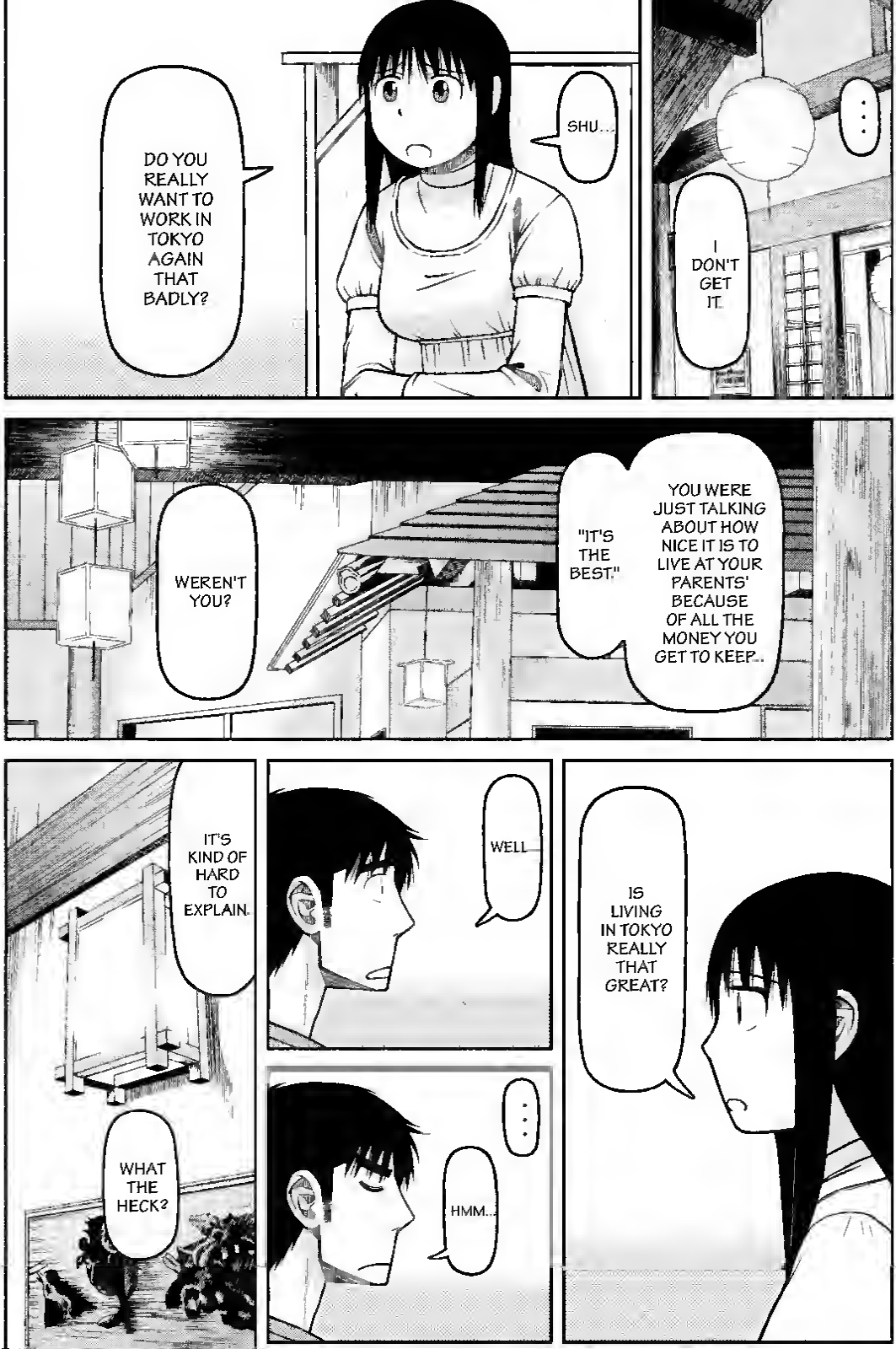
YEAH.
ABOUT THAT JOB OPPORTUNITY
ARE YOU SURE THAT GIG ISN'T TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE?
EARLIER?

ACCORDING TO YOSHIOKA...

I'LL BE SET.
AS LONG AS MY INTERVIEW WITH THE SECTION CHIEF GOES WELL...

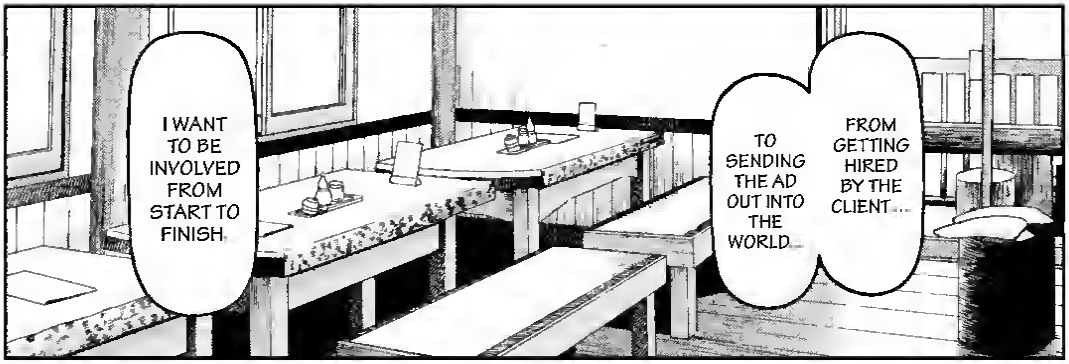
HUH
AND I TRUST YOSHIOKA, THE FRIEND WHO OFFERED ME THE DEAL
CIRCLE X TRIANGLE COMPANY IS WELL KNOWN IN THE INDUSTRY
IT'LL BE FINE

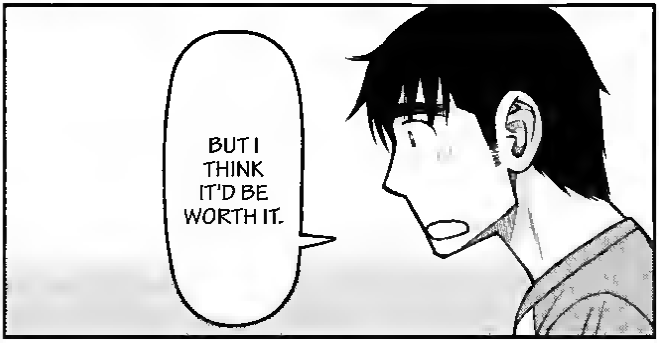

SUCH AN IMPORTANT INTERVIEW...
AND YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE NINA-CHAN TO TOKYO WITH YOU?
WELL...
SOUNDS FUN
MAYBE I'LL GO, TOO
WHAT?!
YEP!
NINA'S GOING TO GO TO A MAID CAFE IN AKIBA WITH SHUTARO
I... SEE...
WELL I WAS JUST GOING WITH THE FLOW
I'M KIDDING
I... I SEE...

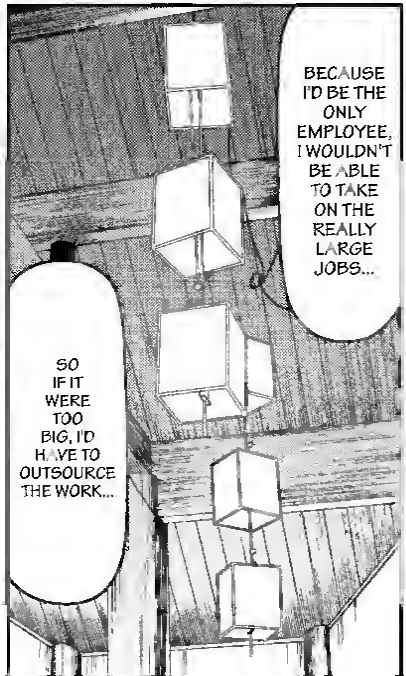

DO YOU REALLY WANT TO WORK IN TOKYO AGAIN THAT BADLY?
SHU...
I DON'T GET IT.
WEREN'T YOU?
"IT'S THE BEST."
YOU WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT HOW NICE IT IS TO LIVE AT YOUR PARENTS' BECAUSE OF ALL THE MONEY YOU GET TO KEEP...
IT'S KIND OF HARD TO EXPLAIN.
WELL...
IS LIVING IN TOKYO REALLY THAT GREAT?
WHAT THE HECK?
HMM...

AND...
AND I GOT PRETTY USED TO LIFE THERE.
I LIVED IN TOKYO FOR ALMOST 10 YEARS BEFORE COMING BACK HERE...
...
HOW DO I PUT IT...
I DON'T THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO GET CLOSER TO ACHIEVING MY DREAM.
WITHOUT WORKING IN TOKYO...
WHAT DREAM?
DREAM?

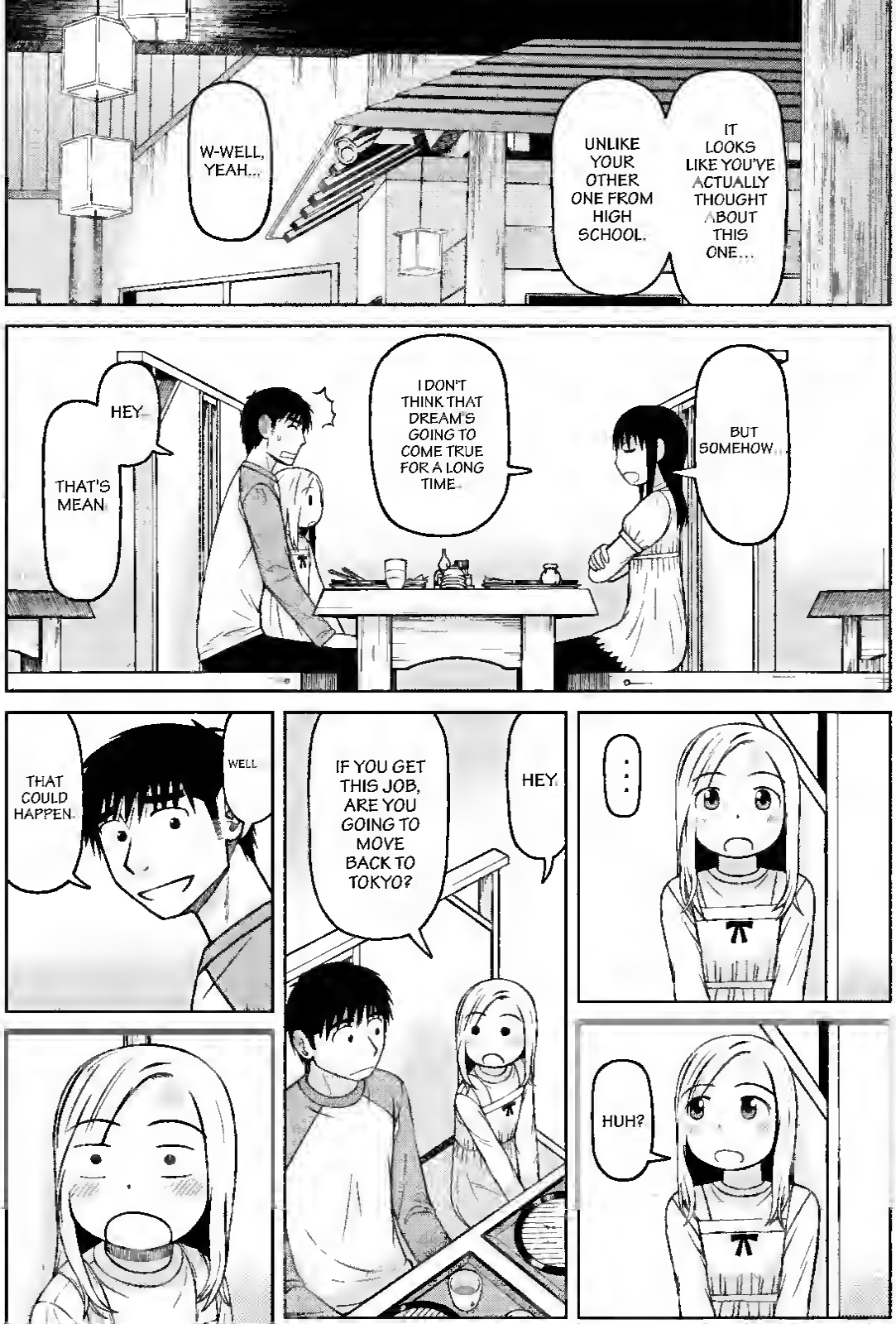
I WANT TO...
OPEN UP MY OWN ADVERTISING FIRM.


FROM GETTING HIRED BY THE CLIENT...
TO SENDING THE AD OUT INTO THE WORLD...
I WANT TO BE INVOLVED FROM START TO FINISH.

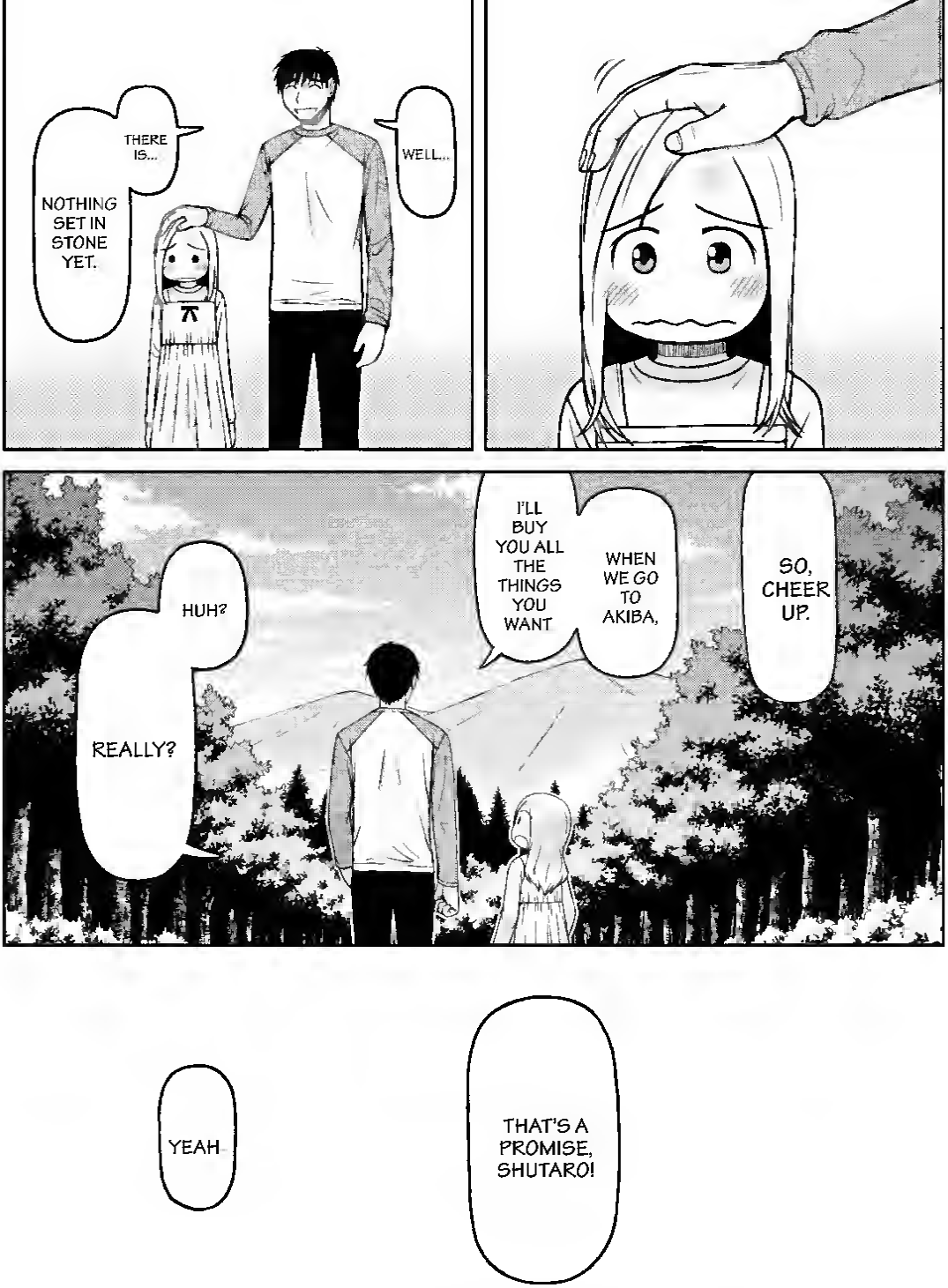

BUT I THINK IT'D BE WORTH IT.


BECAUSE I'D BE THE ONLY EMPLOYEE, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO TAKE ON THE REALLY LARGE JOBS...
SO IF IT WERE TOO BIG, I'D HAVE TO OUTSOURCE THE WORK...

...
HUH.


W-WELL, YEAH...
UNLIKE YOUR OTHER ONE FROM HIGH SCHOOL.
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE ACTUALLY THOUGHT ABOUT THIS ONE...
HEY...
THAT'S MEAN.
I DON'T THINK THAT DREAM'S GOING TO COME TRUE FOR A LONG TIME.
BUT SOMEHOW...
THAT COULD HAPPEN.
WELL
IF YOU GET THIS JOB, ARE YOU GOING TO MOVE BACK TO TOKYO?
HEY.
...
HUH?

WHAT?!
DON'T BE SO DOWN, NINA
IF I END UP MOVING BACK TO TOKYO,
THAT MEANS IT'LL BE EASIER FOR YOU TO VISIT TOKYO, TOO...
IT'LL MEAN A LOT OF GOOD THINGS.
BUT...
IF YOU LEAVE, SHUTARO
NINA WILL BE LONELY
...




END

WE'LL BE TAKING A BREAK NEXT ISSUE.
TO BE CONTINUED IN MANGA ACTION, ON SALE TUESDAY, 3/18!
*THE FUTURE IS ALWAYS A LITTLE NERVE-WRACKING...*